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HALIFAX • WEEKEND FEBRUARY 6-8 2009

metrone



Rihanna obsessed with Chris Brown



Police are looking for this man. Have you see him?

Police looking for robbery suspect

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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BANK Have you seen this man?

Police are looking for a man who robbed the Bank of Montreal on Cole Harbour Road at 6 p.m. last Friday.

A man handed the teller a note that said he had a gun. He fled with money. Halifax Regional Police said they're unsure if he left the area on foot or in a car. The suspect is described as a 5-11 white man about 220 pounds. He has brown hair, a moustache and glasses.

If you have information, contact police or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Local pg 4



Should snow tires on cabs be required?

Movies pg 18

He's just not that into you



Deputy Premier Angus MacIsaac speaks at a news conference yesterday where the Conservatives launched an attack campaign against the opposition NDP.

Off to the races

Election mudslinging underway

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The government unofficially kicked off its election campaign against the NDP yesterday, but sparked accusations of being dishonest.

The Tories released a black booklet with orange, Star Wars-style lettering entitled *The NDP — A Risk You Can't Afford*.

The 65-page booklet claims NDP "promises" would cost Nova Scotia \$2.2 billion.

But many of the promises turn out to be questions or vaguely worded phrases.

For example, the booklet claims the NDP promised to spend \$105 million paving gravel roads.

Their evidence for this is

"This is a desperate attempt by Rodney MacDonald and the Tory government to divert attention away from a disappointing track record. Desperate times for them are equating out to lashing out." NDP MLA Becky Kent

a quote from the NDP's Sterling Belliveau, saying the Transportation minister "should come up with a plan for Nova Scotians who live on highly travelled dirt roads."

The booklet also quotes the NDP asking the Tories in question period why Manitoba is able to create six times more child-care spaces than Nova Scotia.

This is interpreted as a \$143-million promise to create 5,500 child-care

spaces.

When Deputy Premier Angus MacIsaac unveiled the document, Metro asked if it was misleading to characterize random snatches of statements as promises.

"Random snatches of statements create expectations in the minds of Nova Scotians," he replied.

The NDP are widely seen as the ruling Tories' biggest threat in an election, and have spent years cultivat-

ing mainstream acceptance.

Caucus staff — whose salaries are paid by taxpayers — spent more than six months compiling data for the booklet. MacIsaac said it showed the NDP had a habit of making expensive promises they couldn't keep. PC party staff did not know the cost of creating the booklet. No such research was done on the Liberal party.

The NDP dismissed the booklet and accompanying website as "a fantasy."

"This is a desperate attempt by Rodney MacDonald and the Tory government to divert attention away from a disappointing track record. Desperate times for them are equating out to lashing out," said NDP MLA Becky Kent.

Audit blasts Tory plan for environment

POLITICS The Conservative government has no way to track the environmental benefits of two major programs it has said would result in significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the federal environment commissioner has found.

A public transit tax credit announced in 2006 as a way to cut emissions by 220,000 tonnes per year will in fact "lead to negligible reductions," and the means to measure its actual impact haven't yet been created, Scott Vaughn's audit of various government tools to reduce air emissions revealed.

Critics

- Critics accused the Tories of putting taxpayer dollars into "politically inspired" programs they knew would have negligible environmental benefits.
- Green Party Leader Elizabeth said the program is "about the most expensive way you're ever going to find to reduce greenhouse gases."

There is also no scientific basis to claim that a \$1.5-billion climate change fund for the provinces will result in an 80-megatonne cut in emissions, the audit said.

Pembina Institute's climate change director, Matthew Bramley, said there should be legislation requiring governments to state the expected emission cuts when environmental programs are announced and insist on accountability mechanisms for any organization or other level of government receiving federal funds.

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Justice minister headed to Calgary for outreach trip

Justice Minister Cecil Clarke will represent Nova Scotia Monday on a business outreach trip to Calgary organized by the Council of Atlantic Premiers. Seven Nova Scotia companies, including the Halifax Stanfield International Airport, are participating. **METRO HALIFAX**

3

Local



Overseas curriculum

EduNova, a co-operative of public and private schools, is getting \$250,000 from the province to help it export Nova Scotia's curriculum, and promote the province as a destination for foreign students. EduNova is in its first year of a \$24-million, three-year contract with the Abu Dhabi Education Council. **METRO HALIFAX**

This 'I do' sponsored by...

Bride-to-be to use advertising to keep wedding costs down

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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Jane MacNeil will have her dream wedding. It will come with commercials.

The bride is planning a fall wedding and wants to get sponsors to help with the cost. She hopes to get discounts on everything from her wedding dress to the flowers, and in return, these companies will advertise to the 125 to 150 guests.

"It just seems like such a good idea because everyone already wants to know where the flowers came from and who did that or this," she said. "So why not have all the information at the event for them, right?"

MacNeil, a recent graphic artist graduate, was laid off from her part-time job recently. She said she's hoping to save 25 per cent



Jane MacNeil and her fiancé, Andrew Hall, flip through some bridal magazines in their Halifax apartment Thursday. The couple are looking for sponsors to help them with the cost of their wedding.

on her \$10,000 wedding by getting sponsors.

"We've been engaged for a couple years now and we've been trying to figure out how we can afford it, and anything to save money — especially with not

having a steady job," MacNeil said.

She hasn't talked to any companies yet about providing goods, services or a discount, but she's hopeful they'll go for it.

"Even if I could have one

person sponsor me, I'm saving right there. There's no hurt in trying and going for whatever I can get," she said. "It's a whole new idea of getting your name out there, especially with (business) being slow right now."

Wanting to advertise tastefully, MacNeil said she'd like to have a table set up at her wedding with sales materials from all the companies who contributed. She's also thinking of adding the names of her sponsors to invitations, thank you cards and her Facebook group.

MacNeil said she might get some negative comments about having advertisements at her wedding, but she's OK with that.

"It's not like I'm having giant logos and banners all over the place. I have an idea of how I can do it in a smart, classy manner."

Airport hotel delayed a year

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ECONOMY Construction of a new Sheraton Hotel at the airport will be delayed by as much as a year.

Developer Southwest Properties Ltd. was given a one-year extension by the Halifax International Airport Authority to build the hotel, which is supposed to go next to the airport terminal building.

Economic conditions are being blamed for the delay. The abeyance agreement will last until Jan. 31, 2010.

In a news release, airport authority president Tom Ruth called the extension "a reasonable, prudent step to take, given the current global economic conditions."

Library food drive goes local

MELISSA PERREAU
for Metro Halifax

CHARITY A major Nova Scotia food bank will not receive food donated to some university libraries affiliated with the annual Food for Fines week.

Library staff and organizers at Cape Breton University and NSCAD University confirmed they will give the food to campus food banks instead of Feed Nova Scotia. It's a worthy cause, whether it goes to Feed Nova Scotia or a local food bank, said Donna Bourne Tyne, a librarian at Mount St. Vincent University.

The annual program began several years ago at Dalhousie University, but other university and college libraries joined over the years.

All libraries choose a week when students can bring down their library fines with non-perishable food items. For every item brought in, students receive \$2 off their fines for overdue books, up to a maximum of \$20.

This food has gone to Feed Nova Scotia every other year, said its executive director, Dianne Swinemar.



Donations made during Food for Fines week at the University of King's College will be going to Feed Nova Scotia, says librarian Elaine MacInnis. Other schools have opted for campus food banks.

"Say every community decided they were going to do their own community food drive and keep it in their community. There would be food banks with surpluses of food, and there would be food banks where people would literally starve," she says.

This can happen in smaller communities with few businesses; it can happen among the universities as well if more successful food drives decide to keep donations for their own food bank, Swinemar said.

Cape Breton University librarian Debbie MacInnis said the decision isn't about hurting the central food bank.

"We have a lot of students on campus that run out of food, especially this time of year ... in the last couple of months of university, and their money is going down and they need the food," MacInnis said.

She said the university still donates the money it collects to Feed Nova Scotia.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Analysis of auditor general Sheila Fraser's worrisome report at metronews.ca/canada



New \$15M Armour facility opens

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BURNSIDE A bit of good news in bad economic times: Armour Transportation Systems opened its new, \$15-million facility Thursday in the Halifax Logistics Park in Burnside.

It provides the company with 9,290 square metres of warehouse space, with 22 loading doors and a cross-dock facility with 60 doors. It's all on 10 hectares of land.

The transportation company "stuffs" and "destuffs" containers and delivers items throughout the continent.

Its new digs double its current dock space.

But there's always room for more: The company is considering a second phase which would add on 8,361 more square metres of warehouse space.

Taxis safer bet in snowstorm? No guarantees, says cabbie

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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Calling a cab during a snowstorm might seem like a good idea, but there's no telling if that taxi has winter tires.

Spryfield-Herring Cove Coun. Stephen Adams said there's no bylaw making snow tires mandatory for taxis, and the issue hasn't come up at the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee.

"These are mostly private vehicles, so I'd say a majority of them have all-season (tires)," he said. "I don't think we should mandate that — I think they should use their judgment. Like the other night, it doesn't matter if you have winter tires or not, you shouldn't be on the road, but people still expect the cabs to be on the road which is kind of a double standard."

Cab driver Brian Allen said all cabs — and all commercial vehicles for that matter — should have snow tires. "We're out in the ele-



A cab picks up a fare on Thursday outside the Westin Nova Scotian. Snow tires on cabs are not mandatory, but at least one driver thinks they should be.

ments transporting people and to me, it's just another safety issue," he said.

He has four snow tires on his cab he drives for Casino Taxi, where some drivers just install two. He said it's a necessary expense.

"I know there will be a lot of cab drivers who will hate me for saying that because

they don't like to spend money on their cars."

Allen was out in the New Year's Eve blizzard and witnessed a cab without snow tires unable to make it up a small hill.

Still, there's pressure for cabbies to make a living no matter what mother nature throws at the HRM.

Woman escapes potential assault

YOUNG STREET It was a near mugging for a woman walking on Young Street on Wednesday night.

She passed three young men who said "I want money." She started to run when she heard someone behind her and she was hit in the back.

Two men held the woman and the suspects — described as black teens about 17 years old — left the area. METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

ARREST A man trying to break into an Eastern Passage house was scared off Wednesday morning. RCMP officers used a good description of the suspect to track him down. An 18-year-old man was arrested on Briarwood Drive in Eastern Passage.

ARMED ROBBERY Three men — two armed with handguns — robbed the Aladdin Video on Portland Street on Thursday. They walked in the store at 3:15 p.m. and stole cash, cigarettes and other merchandise. The suspects were described as tall, slim black teens. They wore dark-coloured hooded jackets with bandanas covering their faces. METRO HALIFAX

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Face worries, anxiety head on: Psychologist

Your heart's pounding. Your palms are sweaty. You're stressed out and anxious about the state of the economy — and you haven't lost your job.

In these gloom-and-doom times, with bad news seemingly lurking around every corner, how can we stop ourselves from constantly fearing the worst?

"High anxiety is one of the greatest internal enemies people can encounter. It blinds you to what's around you," Halifax psychologist Nina Woulff told Metro this week.

The first step to psychological peace, she says, is to plan for the worst. What would you do if you lost your job? If your spouse did? What's the state of your finances? What could you cut, and what could you live without?

Then, consider how likely it is to happen.

"Rather than say 'stop worrying,' look it in the face," Woulff said.

She says recessions can bring bright sides, if you're able to see them. Losing your job could lead you to a new job you'd be happier doing. It could mean a few months' more time with your family. For those of us still employed, watching others lose their jobs could help us feel grateful for what we do have.

If you're the kind of person who worries about everything, though, Woulff said it's important to recognize the triggers that will make you anxious, and avoid them.

"That kind of anxiety can be quite debilitating."

RACHEL BOOMER/METRO HALIFAX

Man faces child porn charges

SEARCH A Dartmouth man faces charges of possessing child pornography.

Police searched his residence on Waverley Road 6 a.m. on Thursday and allegedly seized evi-

dence, including two computers.

Laurie William Adams, 38, will be charged with accessing, possessing and distributing child pornography.

METRO HALIFAX

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Dealing with 'Angry Pajamas'

RACHEL BOOMER
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Opinionated women are attacked for their looks, their sexuality and their personalities. Men just get told they're jerks.

This is Heather Mallick's theory. Scoff if you like, but she's lived it: the CBC.ca columnist got a flood of hate email after she denounced Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin as unqualified and called her supporters "white trash." Some angry replies included death threats. The worst insults are unprintable.

"I think women are always attacked personally. I'm always attacked because I'm a woman, and there are references to my breasts or my hair," Mallick said in an interview with Metro yesterday.

"Men don't get attacked because of their sex. Nobody says 'You male bastard.'"

Mallick was in Halifax to speak to a Mount St.



Columnist Heather Mallick shown at her hotel Thursday. Mallick, who wrote a controversial column about Sarah Palin last year, spoke at a public lecture called Danger! Women Writing at Mount St. Vincent University on Thursday night.

Vincent University audience Thursday night.

She believes it's a select group of men — she's dubbed them "Angry Pajamas" — who raise dissent

to scream against columnists they dislike or in attacks posted online.

"When women email me and they're really angry, they say 'I hate you,'

but they don't say anything about my genitals, and they don't wish to do me grievous physical harm. They just want me to know I'm a really big jerk," Mallick said.

That's not to say she hates men, she says, far from it.

"Normal, sane men are drowned out by the screamers, the Angry Pajamas. I'm sick of that."

It is, she believes, a result of the backlash against 1980s feminism.

Both genders are to blame for it, she says: Women for being overly harsh on other women, and men for helping to create a glass ceiling she says is lowering "right over your head."

Bad economic times will make it harder for women in the workplace, she says, as people grow fearful for their livelihoods. The solution? Mallick says choose carefully what you get upset about.

"If you relax and accept there are parts of human nature that are ugly, then you bend with the blows, and you don't break."

Stage set for additions to Paragon experience

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ARTS The Paragon Theatre is setting up a new venue on Gottingen Street. It is hoping for a spring opening in the former Marquee space.

"Filling the Marquee's shoes is an audacious goal, but we feel we have something that caters to a wider Halifax community, something for everyone," says artist Peter Farmer.

Farmer, as well as Craig

Mercer and Mark Townsend, the former Marquee general manager, is leading the project.

They want to renovate the top floor to make it into a venue suitable for live music, weddings and other functions.

A café, art gallery and pre-show warmup area will be added in the building.

"I'm most excited about the flexibility to cater to artists through live art projects and community art classes," Farmer said.

Learning conflict resolution

IRELAND They'll miss St. Patrick's Day by mere weeks, but 14 university students will take away more than good times from an upcoming visit to Ireland.

Fourteen Saint Mary's University students will travel to Belfast, Northern Ireland, next week to examine issues in conflict resolution. It's the fourth year Halifax students have made the trip. They'll visit Catholic, Protestant and

integrated schools. They'll also be interviewed by the BBC and the Belfast Telegraph newspaper.

"The project was not just about imparting newly acquired conflict-resolution skills to Irish school children, but also about listening to the Irish children and learning from them," said Pádraig Ó Siadhail, of the D'Arcy McGee chair of Irish studies at Saint Mary's.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

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METRO HALIFAX

local 7

Premier seeks Eskasoni suicide help

PAUL MCLEOD
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Premier Rodney MacDonald says he is open to any ideas on how to help the Eskasoni First Nation community deal with a suicide crisis, but jurisdictional issues might get in the way.

The Cape Breton First

Nation had three suicides in December and learned Tuesday of a 19-year-old hanging himself. A community centre has been converted into a makeshift crisis shelter.

"I have first-hand experience seeing situations like this as a teacher and have seen how difficult situations like this can be," said

MacDonald.

He said his government has been talking to the community about its needs and said the province may offer funding for counselling support.

"We are there to help in any way we can through our departments. But again there is federal jurisdiction as well," he said.

D-Rod Athletes' dinner



Former NBA star Dennis Rodman answers questions Thursday at a news conference at the Westin Nova Scotian for the 2009 Halifax Progress Club sports celebrity dinner. Other athletes at the dinner included Bryan Trottier, Frank Mahovlich, Adam van Koeverden and Jim Kelly.

Police cleared of misconduct

AMHERST A pair of Amherst police officers have been cleared of allegations of misconduct following an eight-month investigation.

The allegations were made by a 51-year-old Amherst man, Patrick Thomas Hawco, last year after his conviction on a number of fraud and theft related charges.

"I have completed my review of the criminal allegations in this matter, concerning members of the Amherst Police Service and I have determined that there is no basis to conclude that a criminal act took place," Chief Mark Mander said in an email Wednesday.

THE AMHERST DAILY NEWS



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Ontario will invest in rebuilding the province's electricity distribution system into a "smart" grid to better utilize renewable energy, Premier Dalton McGuinty said Thursday. So-called smart grids allow for the two-way flow of electricity, so it can be distributed from a wider range of sources. **REUTERS**

Canada

Trudeau family grows

Liberal MP Justin Trudeau and one-year-old son Xavier, left, welcomed a new addition to the family yesterday as Justin's wife, Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau, gave birth to the couple's second child, a girl. Ella-Grace Margaret Trudeau weighed six pounds, 13 ounces, when she was born Thursday morning.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

News in brief

TWINS Ranjit Hayer, 60, gave birth to twins Thursday in Calgary. The babies, Manjot and Gurpreet, were delivered by C-section. Hayer is believed to be the oldest Canadian yet to give birth.

SENTENCE A Toronto judge sentenced Maitham Alzehrani, 37, of Windsor, Ont., who conspired with Albanian smugglers in the United States to smuggle immigrants across the Detroit River on jet skis, to 4½ years in prison, less pre-trial custody.

REFUGEES The Supreme Court of Canada declined Thursday to hear activists' claims that Canada should not send refugees back to the United States because it is not a "safe" country for them. Human rights groups had wanted the court to declare unconstitutional an agreement that allows Canada to stop asylum seekers at the border. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Children saved in porn bust

Searing images of the sexual abuse of infants, toddlers and schoolchildren from across Ontario make up the evidence in the largest child pornography bust in Ontario history, police say.

The cross-Ontario raids freed a four-year-old boy and 12-year-old girl this week, but police said they fear there are plenty of other children still suffering from sexual abuse and exploitation on the Internet.

"For those children waiting to be rescued, we are looking for you," Insp. Andrew Stewart of the Ontario Provincial Police said. "Tell someone."

His comments came Thursday at a news conference as police officers from



Ontario Provincial Police commissioner Julian Fantino, left, addresses reporters at Thursday's news conference on the biggest child porn bust in Ontario history.

18 forces from across the province announced the arrests of 31 men and boys charged with child pornog-

raphy and sexual abuse and exploitation on the Internet. Ages of the 31 accused range from a 14-

year-old to a 60-year-old man.

Ninety-three charges have been laid, and police

"For those children waiting to be rescued, we are looking for you. Tell someone."

Insp. Andrew Stewart

said they expect more as the investigations continue.

Police declined to release any information about the two rescued children.

Many of the accused were relatives or neighbours of their alleged victims, police say.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VIDEO Police make the case for help in shutting down child pornography rings at metronews.ca/canada



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What if I've already registered?

If you registered before **December 14, 2008**, you **MUST** register again in order to receive further safety and security updates.

How do I register?

You can register online at www.travel.gc.ca/register or by contacting a Canadian government office abroad.

For more information, call

1-800-267-6788 (in Canada and the U.S.), **1-800-394-3472** (TTY), or **613-944-6788**.

*Information obtained through registration is confidential and is used in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act.

Canada

Harper, Calderon join forces to fight U.S. protectionism

TRADE Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon have agreed to stand in opposition to the protectionist threat posed by their mutual trading partner, the United States.

Harper, who is pulling out all the stops in a campaign to head off "Buy American" provisions in U.S. President Barack Obama's stimulus package, telephoned Calderon to discuss the issues, the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday.

Speaking as American legislators rushed to hammer out the details of the more than \$819-billion US economic recovery plan,

the two leaders on Wednesday "stressed the importance of resisting protectionist efforts" that have emerged in the United States and other countries.

As partners with the United States in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Canada and Mexico have more to lose than other nations from the protectionist measures. The economic stimulus package, if passed by Congress, would bar foreign-made goods and equipment from being used in public works projects financed with the \$800 billion.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Terrorist should go free: Lawyer

CONVICT An Ottawa software developer convicted of terrorism last October should be let off with time served, his defence lawyer told the judge at a pre-sentence hearing Thursday.

Jailed since March 29, 2004, Momin Khawaja has spent four years and 10 months at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre.

If the 2-for-1 rule is applied to his time served, Khawaja has served the

equivalent of 10 years.

"The time served exceeds the total recommended time," defence lawyer Lawrence Greenspon told Ontario Superior Court Justice Douglas Rutherford after recommending a sentence of seven-and-a-half years.

The 29-year-old was found guilty Oct. 29 of five of seven terrorism-related counts against him.

TRACEY TONG/METRO CANADA

First

• Momin Khawaja was the first person charged under Canada's post-9-11 anti-terrorism legislation.

Picktons sue B.C. government

The siblings of serial killer Robert Pickton have filed suit against the attorney general and solicitor general of British Columbia. The suit claims the RCMP search of Pickton's farm destroyed equipment and land the siblings were entitled to use. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Ottawa **Art on the Canal**

Skaters stop Thursday to admire a few of the 10 portraits featured in the second annual Portraits on the Ice exhibit on Ottawa's Rideau Canal Skateway. The exhibition is part of the city's annual Winterlude festival.

Accused Chinese smuggler gets Canadian work permit

EXTRADITION Canada had little choice but to grant a work permit to Lai Changxing as he fights extradition to China, where he is one of country's most-wanted fugitives, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said Thursday.

Permission for the accused smuggling kingpin to get a job is another twist in a case that is a thorn in relations between China and Canada. Ottawa has denied Lai political asylum, but has

been blocked by the courts from sending Lai home.

The courts have ruled that people living in Canada under an order preventing their removal have the right to get a job if they have no other means of supporting themselves, Kenney said.

Lai fled to Canada with his family in 1999, just as Chinese police were about to arrest him. He lives in Vancouver under a limited house arrest.

REUTERS

UN report urges Ottawa to improve human rights record

Tasers, aboriginal issues major concerns

Responding to criticism over deaths of people who have been Tasered by police, the federal government has promised the United Nations Human Rights Council to "find an effective way to engage civil society" in the review process on the weapons.

It's not clear how such public involvement would be carried out. The pledge was contained in a first-ever review of Canada's record on human rights, released yesterday in draft form by a working group of the Geneva-based organization.

There is no legal force to recommendations by the UN body — nor to promises by diplomats. However, rights activists count on the "name and shame" publicity aspect of the newly implemented reviews by the 47-nation council.

It's the first time nations are reviewed on their record by their peers. That means nations can be criticized by states whose own political leaders have shown disdain for human rights.

Canada, for example, took a pounding from Iran — assailed by international human rights groups for rights abuses — on several fronts, including treatment of "aboriginal women, migrants, Muslim, Arabs and Afro-Canadians."

Response

• A Canadian official told the UN working group the use of Tasers is being widely studied in Canada and "a number of police forces and governments" are examining them. The official further promised public engagement in the follow-up to ongoing review in Canada.

Still, much of the review consists of material provided in submissions to the working group by human rights and civil society organizations in Canada who present written reports for study by member nations. They largely focused on treatment of aboriginal people that was termed "shameful," from high suicide rates to missing and murdered women.

Canadian responses were usually general, with the specific promise on Tasers being an exception. Among several countries to voice concern about the deaths of people who have been Tasered by police, Italy recommended Ottawa "prescribe more rigorous procedures for their possession and use."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ShareYourViews

halifaxletters@metronews.ca

News in brief

RETRACTED Senator Mike Duffy withdrew a metaphor Thursday that put two premiers in bed together. "I was disappointed to see that our ... premier in Prince Edward Island, Robert Ghiz, has climbed into bed with the premier of Newfoundland," said Duffy Tuesday.

SCIENCE A study headed by researchers at the University of British Columbia, published this week in the journal Nature, has found that responsible fishing guidelines should be enforced as law worldwide, as the voluntary rules are failing to protect fish stocks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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*Offer valid until March 2, 2009, see stores for complete details

La Nina will persist into the spring of 2009 but should gradually weaken during that period. The U.S. Climate Prediction Center said the weather system, which creates cooler-than-average temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, will weaken steadily until April, with an eventual return to neutral conditions. **REUTERS**

World



Audio of splashdown released

The voice of a pilot who successfully ditched a passenger jet into New York's Hudson River last month is heard in audio recordings released Thursday telling air traffic controllers, "We're going to be in the Hudson." The recordings of the mayday call, released by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, provide a glimpse into the pilot's demeanour before the splashdown on Jan. 15. **REUTERS**

Doubt cast on U.S. stimulus

Americans voice growing concern over the cost of President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plans and assail as a weakness the disagreement in Washington over how to spend the money.

Two opinion polls show support dwindling. In a Rasmussen Reports survey, 37 per cent of citizens backed the legislation in Congress, down from 45 per cent two weeks ago, while 43 per cent opposed it.

In a Gallup opinion poll, 38 per cent wanted the bill passed as it stood, while 37 per cent wanted major changes.

Obama's fellow Democrats and rival Republicans in Washington are looking

Bonuses banned

- The Senate voted Thursday to ban bonuses for top executives at banks or companies receiving taxpayer money from a \$700-billion bailout fund. The measure was approved as an amendment to the stimulus plan.

for signs of shifting opinion over the landmark bill meant to help rescue the U.S. economy from recession.

Even Democrats have reservations. Some voters decry a lack of political consensus; others argue the government should do more to explain the plan's benefits to voters. **REUTERS**

Japan Job search begins



College students raise their fists at a job-hunting rally Thursday in Tokyo. Some 3,000 students from business schools kicked off efforts to job-hunt with a morale-boosting rally. **REUTERS**

News in brief

STOCKHOLM Israel's ambassador to Sweden is the latest public figure to be targeted by a shoe-throwing protester. Police said Ambassador Benny

Dagan was hit on the leg by the shoe, thrown along with other projectiles when he appeared at Stockholm University this week. **REUTERS**

At least 800 civilians escape war zone in north Sri Lanka

CONFLICT At least 800 civilians caught in raging fighting escaped Sri Lanka's war zone on Thursday, the military said, and the government renewed a call for Tamil Tiger rebels to surrender unconditionally or face destruction.

Battles flared around a shrinking wedge of jungle in the Indian Ocean island's

northeast, measured at about 200 square kilometres, in which the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam separatists are trapped.

Troops killed 15 rebels, including three senior guerrillas, while capturing the coastal village of Chalai, the last redoubt of the LTTE's Sea Tigers naval wing. **REUTERS**

Melting ice sheet could flood coasts

CLIMATE North America's coastlines would be hit especially hard by rising sea levels if the huge West Antarctic Ice Sheet melts in a warming world, as some experts fear, University of Toronto-based scientists said Thursday.

The loss of that ice alone would inundate coastal areas, swamping New York, Washington D.C., south

Florida, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle, with sea levels in some places higher by 21 feet or more.

Factors such as changes in the Earth's rotation from the loss of the ice sheet would make sea level changes variable around the globe, they said. The southern Indian Ocean also would be heavily affected. **REUTERS**

HRSB REGISTRATION INFORMATION

2009-2010

SCHOOL YEAR

HRSB REGISTRATION WILL TAKE PLACE FROM FEBRUARY 2, 2009 TO MARCH 2, 2009.

Students will register for all programs (English and French Immersion) at the school serving the neighbourhood in which they reside.

PRIMARY PROGRAM

- A child must have reached his/her fifth birthday **on or before December 31, 2009.**
- Parents/guardians must present the child's birth certificate, proof of residence, health card number and expiry date at the time of registration.
- Each school will publicize its dates for primary orientation.

EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

- The Early French Immersion Program is available to students who live within areas of eligibility of the Halifax Regional School Board and who register by **March 2, 2009.**
- For further information regarding eligibility, go to the following link www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/id/1015.html or contact the principal of your neighbourhood school.

GRADE SEVEN

- Registration will take place at the elementary school the student currently attends.
- Each school will publicize its dates for student orientation.

GRADE SEVEN LATE FRENCH IMMERSION

- The Late French Immersion Program is available to students who live within areas of eligibility of the Halifax Regional School Board and who register by **March 2, 2009.**
- For further information regarding eligibility, go to the following link www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/id/1016.html or contact the principal of your neighbourhood school.

GRADE TEN

- Registration will take place at the junior high school the student currently attends.
- Each school will publicize its dates for student orientation and course selection.

OUT-OF-AREA REQUESTS

- Parents/guardians may seek placement for their daughter/son in a school outside of the neighbourhood in which they reside under the guidelines of the *Creating School Populations Policy* (available for viewing on the HRSB website: www.hrsb.ns.ca).
- Parents/guardians may obtain Out-of-Area Request forms at their daughter's/son's neighbourhood school.
- Parents/guardians must forward Out-of-Area Requests to the requested school **on or after April 1, 2009.**

EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

- Information regarding the Early Learning Opportunities Program will be communicated at a later date.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING REGISTRATION, CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL OF YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHOOL.

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Comment & Views

Comment

Easy money or costly scam?

Do research to avoid getting stuck in a pyramid scheme

Marketplace



Wendy Mesley

Who doesn't want to make more money? Especially these days. So the offer to make easy cash is tempting. And that's what a company called BIM (Business in Motion) is offering. We found out firsthand when we went inside: Join the organization, and you could make serious dollars, and get dream vacations. Almost every night in hotel conference rooms across the country, BIM is holding information sessions about its exclusive money-making plan, with the promise that it is on the cusp of exploding into a profitable venture bigger than Amway.

Sound too good to be true? BIM says it's not. It says that hasn't stopped around 8,000 Canadians from getting in. The man behind BIM, Alan Kippax, says the company has already brought in \$30 million in sales. And just what does BIM sell? Its main product is the UltraLife travel club, with online access to steep discounts on resort travel all over the world. Attend a presentation, and you could get the sense you'll soon be relaxing in sunny climes while the money pours in.

BIM says you can get a \$9,000 package for just \$3,200 at one of its presentations. We get ourselves inside and do some digging. We attend a few sessions and discover the real attraction is not the holiday, but the promise of big money. The pitch is about bringing in new

buyers. And when you help Alan Kippax do that, you can join its pay structure and, he says, potentially make thousands of dollars signing up new members.

But potential buyers should approach with caution. Experts we've spoken to say BIM looks and sounds like an illegal pyramid scheme, which means it has a limited shelf life and buyers could lose their money. To prevent pyramids, Canada's Competition Bureau forbids any company from operating a business that makes most of its money off recruiting. Another red flag for pyramid schemes? The product sold is often of little value.

So just how much is its travel product worth? We compare BIM's \$3,200 travel club with discount sites available on the Internet. We find cheaper

prices for the same date at the same resort as in BIM's package.

Alan Kippax insists his company is legal. But the RCMP admitted to us that they suspect it is an illegal pyramid scheme. They told us they've passed on their concerns to the Competition Bureau. The Competition Bureau would not say whether it is investigating.

Meanwhile, BIM continues to pitch its plan to Canadians desperate for cash during these tough times. If you are unsure about joining a money-making venture, do lots of homework. Turn to the Internet and search for any complaints about the people involved. And before you hand over your money, understand the law so that you don't risk losing cash to a scheme that may eventually collapse.

Wendy Mesley is a co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show, and a regular back-up host with CBC News: The National. CBC News: Marketplace airs each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. (9 p.m. NT) on CBC Television.



Views

On Metro Transit buses, all beliefs are equal

UrbanCompass



Atheism ads should be allowed on buses. Just not Halifax buses.

Proving once again humanity's love of getting upset for pointless reasons, the atheist ads have been causing controversy across the globe.

They read, "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life."

Seems harmless, but it's sparked much protest and even has bus drivers refusing to work. Now the fuss has hit Halifax as Metro

Transit refused to run the ads. Except in this case, it's OK.

First off, anyone so insecure in their own faith that they can't stand seeing an ad promoting another view is someone who needs to lighten up. To suggest pro-God ads are OK but pro-atheism ads are offensive is absurdly hypocritical.

But that's not what's happening here. Metro Transit spokeswoman Lori Patterson said it has a policy against running any religious or political ads to avoid controversy. Fair enough. That may be a bit paranoid, but it's hardly a violation of free speech. Assuming what Patterson says is true, then the atheists are being treated exactly like everyone else.

And isn't that kind of the point of this whole campaign? Wouldn't lobbying Metro Transit to overturn its general policy to make a special case for atheists be completely against what they're trying to do?

And don't get me wrong, as a regular rider I don't feel much sympathy for them. There's no greater argument against atheism than the feeling of missing a bus and hoping with all your might that hell exists so the inventor of GoTime can be sent there.

(As I write this, my coworker Matthew Wuest just stormed back into the office fuming that he got to a bus stop seven minutes early, waited about 25 minutes, and his bus never came. Seriously, Metro Transit, must you be im-

possible to defend?)

But there's nothing unfair about avoiding all religious or political ads. Trying to martyr your cause with that is just silly.

It's like when PETA makes Super Bowl commercials it knows will be too racy to air and then cries foul when they're rejected. They plan on this happening — imagine their panic if an ad actually got accepted and they had to pay for it — to drum up cheap publicity.

The atheism ads have attracted enough genuine controversy without needing to manufacture more. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life.

Paul McLeod is a staff reporter at Metro Halifax. He is currently in rehab for being a political junkie. It's going badly.

GOOGLE TO LAUNCH A TRACKING TOOL:



MICHAEL DE ADLER

Letters

Considering helmet rule for NHL fights a welcome move

A statement by the NHL players' association chief that it could consider making helmet use compulsory during ice hockey fights is a welcome move. These injuries and fatalities must be prevented and controlled and needs no further discussion. Players who refuse to wear helmets during fights should be banned from playing hockey. The public health community has a societal duty to speak up on behalf of those who

are vulnerable to injury, as well as to the economics of treatment and lack of prevention.

Injuries cost our health-care system so significantly. Injuries account for \$12 billion of health-care expenditures per year. After cancer and cardiovascular disease, injuries are the most costly condition for our health-care system. Injury is the leading cause of death and hospitalization of Canadians under 45 and the fourth leading cause of death among all Canadians.

DR. EDIRIWEERA DESAPRIYA, VANCOUVER

Quote of the Day

"The order from the Vatican is an important and good signal. It makes clear that Holocaust denial cannot be allowed to stand without consequences."

— German Chancellor Angela Merkel after the Vatican decided to order a traditionalist bishop who denies the Holocaust to recant his views.

REUTERS



Metro Online Poll Results

48% SAID YES

Should public transit in Canadian cities approve atheist ads?

52% SAID NO

Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Warner Music Group posted better-than-expected results Thursday, despite falling CD sales and slower growth in digital revenue. Net profit for the first quarter came in at \$23 million US, up from a loss of \$16 million a year earlier. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUSA, FERMIN.DESOUSA@METRONEWS.CA

In brief

ECONOMY The International Monetary Fund warned Thursday of a more severe economic downturn unless governments move aggressively to fix the financial system by removing troubled assets from banks' books. "If the financial sector is not restored to health, an enduring recovery will not be possible," the Fund said. Purging the banks of the bad debt by transferring toxic assets into a "bad bank" would be costly but such steps have been tried and tested in previous crises and worked, it argued. **REUTERS**

Certicom subject of bidding war?

When it comes to wireless, it's usually the handset manufacturers and their sleek, sexy gadgets that garner the most attention — not the companies that contribute to the development of the devices' sophisticated electronic brains.

That was the case with Certicom Corp. — that is, until it became the target of a bidding war initiated by long-time partner Research In Motion Ltd. that

Just the facts on Certicom

- Based in Mississauga, Ont.
- Employs 120 people
- Holds some 470 patents
- Licenses and encrypts software

used by Research in Motion in its BlackBerry, which is known for its highly envied wireless email security

has boosted Certicom's shares by more than 75 per cent over the past month.

Certicom's technology was instrumental in allowing U.S. President Barack Obama to keep his Black-

Berry and to use email, aided by the fact that the U.S. National Security Administration had already approved the encryption software for government communications.

RIM is now leading the race to acquire Certicom after outbidding California-based VeriSign Inc., an Internet security provider, with a \$3-per-share offer that values the company at about \$131 million.

Analysts say RIM decided to launch a hostile takeover to prevent its competitors, including Motorola, Oracle, Unisys and IBM, from acquiring the company.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bombardier to lay off 1,300 workers

LAYOFFS Bombardier Inc. said Thursday that its aerospace unit plans to cut more than 1,300 jobs as it braces for a drop in business jet orders.

The Montreal-based company said it will lay off 1,010 temporary workers and subcontractors and 350 permanent employees at its Montreal, Wichita and Belfast facilities. The cuts represent about 4.5 per cent of its 30,000 worldwide jobs. **REUTERS**



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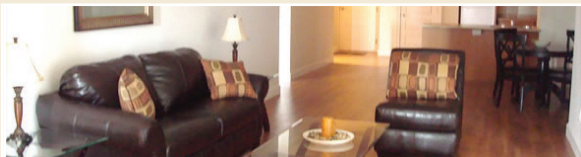
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Tip of the Day: there are two types of people...one who ask for directions and the others who find their way. Both may reach the destination but the satisfaction of the other kind is far greater. — Dominik Sliver

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U.S. Treasury overpaid by \$78 billion US in bailout: Watchdog

The U.S. Treasury Department overpaid about \$78 billion US during its first set of transactions under the \$700-billion bailout, putting about \$254 billion into financial institutions, but receiving only \$176 billion in value, the watchdog panel for the Troubled Asset Relief Program said. **REUTERS**

business **13**

The **DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ**

CEOs confident, sort of:

The annual PricewaterhouseCoopers Global CEO survey has found 59 per cent of Canadian CEOs are "somewhat confident" for revenue growth in the next year, and 63 per cent for the next three years.

Banking complaints up:

Complaints to the Ombudsman for Banking Services and Investments have more than doubled in two years, with 670 dispute resolution cases opened in 2008.

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nsbj.ca

Madoff's clients include famous

Hall of Fame baseball pitcher Sandy Koufax and World Trade Center developer Larry Silverstein are among well-known people listed as customers of accused swindler Bernard Madoff, according to new court papers.

Among the thousands of others on the roster are Senator Frank Lautenberg, imprisoned class-action lawyer Melvyn Weiss, and Madoff's sons, Mark and Andrew, and his brother, Peter.

The 162-page document was filed late on Wednesday with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New York as part of the liquidation of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC by a court-appointed trustee to recover assets for defrauded customers.

In all, five lists were filed with the court, labelled customers, vendors, employees, brokers/dealers and other parties.

The customer list con-

tains names and addresses of individuals and institutions, but does not include amounts of money. The lists were put together by AlixPartners LLP, a firm assisting the trustee in reviewing books and records.

One of Madoff's lawyers, Ira Lee Sorkin, is listed, but declined to comment Thursday on whether he had invested with Madoff. He noted the list could be a client list or a mailing list.

REUTERS

Burger King's quarterly earnings short of a Whopper

EARNINGS Burger King Holdings posted a lower-than-expected quarterly profit Thursday and cut its forecast for the year as a stronger U.S. dollar weighs

on the chain's results.

The company, best known for its Whopper hamburgers, said profit fell to \$44 million US, or 33 cents per share, from \$49

million, or 36 cents per share, a year earlier. Analysts had expected profits of 37 cents per share, according to Reuters estimates.

REUTERS

Cigars **Obamaniacs** smoke, too



OSWALDO RIVAS/REUTERS

Trying to cash in on U.S. President Barack Obama's popularity, Granada Cigars has produced Obama cigars — seen here being inspected in a Nicaraguan manufacturing plant Thursday — using local and Cuban leaves to hand-roll cigars wrapped with a band that says Obama 44. Obama is a former smoker.



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The New England Patriots placed the franchise tag on Matt Cassel on Thursday, making it tougher for other teams to sign the free-agent quarterback. The Patriots might keep him if they have doubts that Tom Brady will be ready for the start of next season after sustaining a serious knee injury in the 2008 opener. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



Hall call for Weir

Mike Weir, left, was elected as the 2009 nominee for the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame on Thursday. The 2003 Masters champion will officially be inducted into the Hall as part of the weeklong festivities for the 100th playing of the RBC Canadian Open in July at Glen Abbey in Oakville.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Bad blood, Belarussian style

Mikhail Grabovski doesn't really need any extra motivation to face the Montreal Canadiens. They are, after all, the team that drafted him, kept him in the minors and traded him away.

They're also the team that feature his Belarussian compatriots — the Kostitsyn brothers — whom he just happens to hate. The younger one — Sergei — especially.

But Leafs coach Ron Wilson provided Grabovski with extra motivation with a trip to the press box Wednesday as a healthy scratch.

"I'm sure he'll be pretty energized for this game," said Wilson.

"Obviously, he has a thing going for Montreal, and vice versa. So he'll be motivated."

Grabovski has one goal in his last 13 games and has been a minus-five in his last seven. His benching was a first for Grabovski in a Leaf uni-

form.

"I've struggled for a few games now," said Grabovski, through his broken but improving English. "Last game, I don't play. Coach gave me a day of rest. I feel good now. I know what I have to do, I'm ready to play in Montreal."

That means another meeting with his archrival, Sergei Kostitsyn, as the two add a Belarussian flavour to this historic Leafs-Habs rivalry. Neither player is known for fisticuffs — both are better known for their skill and speed. But they've been feuding all season.

In Toronto, in a 6-3 Leafs win Nov. 8, Kostitsyn received a 10-minute mis-

conduct after taking a run at Grabovski. The Habs thought Grabovski was showing them up by pointing to the score-

board. In the Leafs' visit to Montreal

"Guys are going to try to blow it up into something it's not." Mike Van Ryn

— a 6-2 loss Jan. 8 — Grabovski ended up with a three-game suspension for shoving a linesman in an attempt to fight Sergei Kostitsyn. Grabovski called the incident "history" and said he put it behind him.

"I don't think about players," said Grabovski. "I think about beating the team in Montreal."

Still, Grabovski has managed only three goals and five assists since coming back from suspension. He said his recent poor play has nothing to do with l'affaire Kostitsyn.

"It's my first year in the NHL and maybe I'm a little bit tired," said Grabovski. "Maybe I think too much, but I can score. I will play better."

In Montreal, Kostitsyn sounded gleeful when

informed Grabovski had been a healthy scratch. "Scratched? Good," he said.

Leaf defenceman Mike Van Ryn figured it would be much ado about nothing. "They're just going to play hard. Guys are going to try to blow it up in to something that it's not."

Wilson sounded more worried about how Grabovski would respond from his first benching and doesn't want a sideshow, but sounded as if he was rallying his troops to Grabovski's side.

"We need to help him out in some of these situations," Wilson said of Grabovski. "He's not out there alone and he has to understand that. It's not him against the Kostitsyns, it's the Leafs against the Canadiens and if any of this stuff happens, we need to have people riding shotgun with him to make sure he gets through safely."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Mikhail Grabovski



Sergei Kostitsyn

Phelps suspended three months for bong hit

SWIMMING Record-setting Olympic champion Michael Phelps has been banned for three months by USA Swimming amid controversy over a photograph published in a British newspaper purportedly showing him smoking

marijuana at a University of South Carolina house party.

Phelps' financial support has also been cut off for the same three-month period, the sport's national governing body said in a statement on its website

on Thursday.

"This is not a situation where any anti-doping rule was violated, but we decided to send a strong message to Michael because he disappointed so many people, particularly the hundreds of thousands of USA

Swimming member kids who look up to him as a role model and a hero," the federation added.

"Michael has voluntarily accepted this reprimand and has committed to earn back our trust," the statement said.

REUTERS



Carolina Morace, middle, with assistants Andrea Neil, left, and Elisabetta Bavagnoli.

Canada nets Morace

Canadian soccer has scored big, netting a former Italian star to coach its women's team and help in its bid to host the 2015 World Cup.

Calling it "a very significant milestone in the development of women's soccer in our country," Peter Montopoli of the Canadian Soccer Association announced the hiring of Carolina Morace on Thursday.

"Our goal is very clear, winning medals on the international stage," Montopoli told a news conference at BMO Field in Toronto.

Montopoli added that the hiring of Morace, a FIFA ambassador appointed by its president Sepp Blatter, is "certainly a step in the right direction" as Canada prepares to bid to host the 2015 Women's World Cup.

While Canada has already told FIFA it's interest in hosting 2015, the bid process isn't expected to begin until sometime next year or 2011.

Morace, who turned 45

"Our goal is very clear, winning medals on the international stage ... (This is) certainly a step in the right direction."

Peter Montopoli of the CSA

on Thursday, takes over from Evan Pellerud who stepped down after nine years in 2008 following Canada's quarter-final loss at the Olympics.

Morace played her first game for the Italian women's team at age 14 and finished with 105 goals in 153 games. In 1995, she was FIFA's female player of the year. In 1999, she became the first woman to ever coach a professional men's team in Italy.

"The CSA wants to win and I agree," Morace told reporters.

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Mooseheads attendance drops, but still near top

The QMJHL released its latest attendance report yesterday, and it shows the Mooseheads have suffered the largest per-game attendance drop in the league, with an average of 788 fewer fans than at this time last season. The Mooseheads, with average crowds of 6,406, are still No. 2 in attendance. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

sports **15**

Moose come home

MATTHEW WUEST
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The Halifax Mooseheads are coming off a rare win. That means an opportunity for an even rarer winning streak.

The last-place Mooseheads, home Friday to the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies and Saturday to the Rimouski Oceanic, have only won back-to-back games once the entire season and have yet to string together three consecutive victories.

The Mooseheads' definition of "heating up" came in the form of consecutive wins on Jan. 11 and 17.

A little momentum would go a long way toward getting Halifax out of the basement and into a playoff spot.

"It's been a bit of a mental thing for us," said Mooseheads goaltender Mark Yetman. "We win one big game and we're trying to get a little bit too fancy the next game."

The Mooseheads beat the Montreal Junior 4-3 on Monday, snapping a six-game losing streak.

Despite the win, they are



Mark Yetman wants to build on a solid effort in Montreal.

four points behind the Lewiston Maineiacs and Val-d'Or Foreurs, teams they must catch for a playoff spot.

"We had a good game in Montreal and we're looking to build on it," said Yetman. "We're fighting for a playoff spot and we're going to dig our heels in and go for it."

There are just 17 games left in the Mooseheads' season, and 10 of them will be played at the Metro Centre.

Rookie forward Gerrad Grant will be a game-day decision on Friday because of the flu. Guillaume Pelletier (broken kneecap) remains on the sidelines indefinitely.

MacMillan return up in air

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Logan MacMillan is a "maybe" for his return to the Metro Centre with the Rimouski Oceanic on Saturday.

The former Halifax Mooseheads forward, traded in December to the Oceanic, will be back in town to face his former team for the first time, but will have missed three games with a Charley horse and will be a game-day decision.

MacMillan has four goals and eight assists in 13 games since joining the Memorial Cup hosts.



Logan MacMillan will be a game-day decision Saturday.

"He's been doing a good job," said Oceanic head coach Clement Jodoin, a former head coach of the Mooseheads. "He's a physi-

cal player, he can score, and his transition to a new team has been quite good. I've been pleased with him."

As they have all season, the Oceanic will be severely shorthanded when they visit Halifax. Top forwards Felix Lafrancois, Keven Veilleux and Olivier Fortier are also on the shelf.

Jodoin said his team has eclipsed 200 man games lost to injury and said the league record is 225. The Oceanic have not lived up to expectations as a result, going 29-22-1. "I have no first line, second line or third line," Jodoin said. "I have to put together a puzzle every game."

NBA Lakers, Celtics renew rivalry



Boston's Kevin Garnett blocks a shot by Kobe Bryant last night. L.A. won 110-109 in overtime.

SCOREBOARD

QMJHL					Rouyn-Noranda24	22	7	55	x-Quebec	39	10	3	81	PBL					
					Montreal	25	22	3	Rimouski	29	22	1	59						
					Val-d'Or	14	31	7	Chicoutimi	17	23	10	44						
										Baie-Comeau	16	28	7	39					
ATLANTIC DIVISION					CENTRAL DIVISION					ATLANTIC CONFERENCE									
	W	L	OT	P		W	L	OT	P						W	L	PCT		
x-Moncton	37	9	5	79						x- Clinched playoff spot					Vermont	6	3 .667		
x-Cape Breton	37	15	2	76											Manchester	6	3 .667		
Saint John	27	23	4	58	x-Drummondville	40	9	3	83						HALIFAX	6	5 .545		
P.E.I.	19	25	9	47	x-Shawinigan	40	11	2	82						Montreal	3	5 .375		
Bathurst	18	24	10	46	Victoriaville	27	25	1	55	FRIDAY					Quebec	2	5 .286		
HALIFAX	14	32	5	33	Lewiston	18	34	1	37	Rouyn-Noranda at HALIFAX, 7									
WEST DIVISION					EAST DIVISION					SATURDAY					SUNDAY				
	W	L	OT	P		W	L	OT	P	Rimouski at HALIFAX, 7					Vermont at HALIFAX, 4				
Gatineau	29	21	4	62															

PBL

ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

Vermont 6 3 .667

Manchester 6 3 .667

HALIFAX 6 5 .545

Montreal 3 5 .375

Quebec 2 5 .286

SUNDAY

Vermont at HALIFAX, 4

FRIDAY

Rouyn-Noranda at HALIFAX, 7

SATURDAY

Rimouski at HALIFAX, 7

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The Dalhousie Tigers are hosting the Atlantic University Sport men's and women's swimming championships Friday through Sunday at Dalplex. The Tigers, ranked ninth in Canada in men's and 10th in women's, will compete against Memorial, Mount Allison, UNB and UPEI. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Rainmen tap Berry as new coach

Former Acadia bench boss finds fit at home in Halifax

MATTHEW WUEST
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Les Berry has been enjoying life away from basketball for the past eight months. But when the Halifax Rainmen offered him their head-coaching job, he jumped at it.

"The fit here," Berry said, "can't get any better for myself."

The Halifax native, unveiled yesterday as head coach of the Rainmen just two days after the firing of Rick Lewis, resigned as head coach of the Acadia Axemen last June.

The timing of his resignation stunned the basketball community. He had just completed a three-year overhaul of the Axemen,

Vermont next

• After a week of turmoil, the Halifax Rainmen are hoping to turn the tables on the Vermont Frost Heaves. The Rainmen host the Frost Heaves at the Metro Centre on Sunday at 4 p.m. in a matchup pivotal in their quest for a Premier Basketball League playoff spot. The Frost Heaves, 6-3, are tied for first in the Atlantic Conference and have won all eight head-to-head matchups since the Rainmen were founded in November 2007. "I don't see Vermont as a better team than us — in my eyes, I don't see any team being better than us," said Rainmen forward David Bailey. "We have to step up and do what we're capable of doing. We should be the team to fear."

"The fit here can't get any better for myself."

Les Berry

guiding them to a national runner-up finish after a historical double-overtime upset of the five-time defending champion and host Carleton Ravens in the semifinals.

But the father of a two-and-a-half-year-old boy didn't enjoy the heavy commitment of university coaching. Evening practices took a bite out of the time he spent with his son.

"That was just eating away," he said.

With the Rainmen, the life he's known for the past eight months remains unchanged. Practices start at 9 a.m. and are done by noon, while all nine remaining games are on weekends.

"This does not affect anything that I do with my family," he said.

Unlike Lewis, Berry will not be the team's general manager. Owner Andre Levingston will recruit and sign players, as he has all along in conjunction with Lewis.

"That's the good thing — the players are given to me," Berry said. "Whoever is here, I'm going to coach."

He called this a "two-month interim position" and said both he and Levingston will determine if it's the right fit.

Berry, known for his animated and vocal approach on the sidelines, listed rebounding and defence as two big concerns with the

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX



Les Berry is introduced as Rainmen coach Thursday.

Rainmen, who have a 6-5 record and are third in the Premier Basketball League's Atlantic Conference.

He's already gone to work restructuring the offence. He said from what he's seen, opponents have lured the Rainmen into tak-

ing jump shots every time down the floor. He wants to change that by introducing more balance to the attack.

"I'm an inside-out coach and everybody knows that," Berry said. "I know this team has shooters but I would like to utilize our strength inside (to open up

more space)."

Berry said he has never coached a team with the talent of the Rainmen and is eager to get started.

"I truly feel that with some slight, minor changes, with my style, we can do some really good things," he said.

Sasquatch kicked out of league

PBL One of the Halifax Rainmen's most frequent opponents has been kicked out of the Premier Basketball League.

The PBL sent out a press release yesterday stating that the Montreal Sasquatch had its membership rights terminated for failing to meet "minimum requirements." It added that the PBL "will not tolerate players not being paid." The PBL is still interested in having a team in Montreal, and will entertain applications from other owners.

The Rainmen had two more games scheduled with the Sasquatch, on the road on Feb. 27 and at home on March 28. The Rainmen will play other teams on those dates.

Rainmen owner Andre Levingston supported the decision and dismissed comparisons to the antics that led him to drop out of the American Basketball Association last March.

"If there's a team that has chosen to do something other than (follow the PBL's mandate), quite frankly, as an owner, I don't want them in the league," he said.

Levingston said in the ABA, there "wasn't a mandate, period," and called it a "totally different situation."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Roy to face trial in summer

QMJHL Jonathan Roy, the son of NHL Hall of Fame member Patrick Roy, will face trial in July on an assault charge. Jean Asselin, Jonathan Roy's lawyer, says his client intends to fight allegations stemming from a brawl during a QMJHL game last March. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS
BAYERS ROAD / HIGHWAY 102 /
HIGHWAY 107 CORRIDOR STUDY



The Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) are exploring the future best use of the Bayers Road / Highway 102 Corridor from Windsor Street, Halifax to Fall River. The study includes traffic projections and functional designs that could be implemented in stages over a 30-year period. The location of the proposed Highway 107 from Akerley Blvd in Burnside to Highway 102 near Duke Street (Exit 4C) has also been updated and evaluated. The study was conducted by Stantec Consulting on behalf of NSTIR and HRM. Two public information sessions will be held to present the findings of the study and the functional design of the roadways and interchanges:

• **Wednesday, February 11, 2009**

at the St. Andrew's Centre, 6955 Bayer's Road, Halifax, from 6pm to 9pm with a presentation at 6:30pm.

• **Thursday, February 12, 2009**

at the LeBrun Community Centre, 36 Holland Avenue, Bedford from 6pm to 9pm with a presentation at 6:30pm.

NSTIR, HRM and Consultant staff will be in attendance at the public information sessions to discuss the study and answer questions. If you have questions regarding the upcoming sessions, please contact Bernadette Landry, P. Eng at 434-7331 or by e-mail at bernadette.landry@stantec.com.

NHL Bruins beat Sens in shootout



Chuck Kobasew celebrates his game tying goal against the Senators with teammates Marc Savard and Blake Wheeler in Ottawa last night. The Bruins went on to win 4-3 in a shootout.

BLAIR GABLE/REUTERS

Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.

Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Bittersweet beauties

Pg 18



He's Just Not That Into You is a movie worth seeing simply for the star cast of beautiful actresses alone — but be warned, it's not a good his-and-hers date movie. Women watchers will likely find it funny and romantic but also, at times, infuriating.

movies

Pg 18



Coraline more gripping than the typical family fare.

music

Pg 23



Vedder explains cover of rare Canadian track Hard Sun.

7th heaven

Pg 28



Why did this songstress make our weekly hot list?

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Stars, stories Into You's attractions

He's Just Not That Into You

Director: Ken Kwapis
Stars: Drew Barrymore, Jennifer Aniston
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●●

ROBYN YOUNG
 for Metro Canada

Warning: He's Just Not That Into You is a bad movie choice for date night. For girl's night (or guy's night), however, it might be just perfect.

As long as you remember it's only a movie and take care not to read too much into anything — it could be hazardous to your personal life.

The Ken Kwapis romantic comedy boasts a long list of starlets including Drew Barrymore, Jennifer Aniston, Bradley Cooper, Ginnifer Goodwin, Scarlett Johansson, Justin Long, Ben Affleck and Jennifer



Scarlett Johansson, left, and Drew Barrymore star in He's Just Not That Into You.

Connelly.

Based on the bestselling self-help book, He's Just Not That Into You, by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo and published in 2004, the premise is that if a guy

likes you he'll call, drop by, send flowers, ask you out and basically do anything and everything he can to be with you.

And as Justin Long's character Alex states over

and over again, any behaviour that falls outside of that is "the exception, not the rule."

"And you're not the exception, you're the rule," he tells Ginnifer Good-

win's character Gigi repeatedly in an attempt to coach her through a myriad of dating disasters.

The film follows a group of interconnected, Baltimore 20- to 30-somethings

On the web

• For a He's Just Not That Into You trailer, and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies.

experiencing varying degrees of relationship successes and failures.

With an interesting take on the 2004 book which is very rigid in its doctrine, it focuses mostly on the "rules" but also makes a valid case that exceptions to those rules do exist and sometimes it's best just to go with how you feel.

Depending on your own relationship status you may find it funny, romantic, alarming, depressing or infuriating.

In any case, it's worth a look for the list of top-billing celebrities alone and with the mix of storylines it'll be easy to relate to at least one of the relationship scenarios.

Pink Panther 2 gives comedy a bad name

The Pink Panther 2

Director: Harald Zwart
Stars: Steve Martin, Alfred Molina
Classification: PG
Rating: ●

CHRIS ALEXANDER
 for Metro Canada

REVIEW Listen carefully. Don't make a sound. Do

you hear that? Do you know what that is? It's Peter Sellers spinning in his grave. The reason for his posthumous pole dance? The Pink Panther 2.

It wasn't bad enough that Steve Martin and his crew of pedestrian ghouls raided Sellers' legacy for 2006's offensively flat remake of the original 1964 Sellers/Blake Edwards masterpiece, but now they've gone and sequelized

that stinker. The resulting non-comedy gives slapstick a bad name and makes the first effort seem like vintage Chaplin by comparison.

Martin returns as bumbling Parisian police inspector Jacques Clouseau, still running afoul of his bitter boss Chief Dreyfus (the great John Cleese in fine caustic form but nowhere near the presence Herbert Lom was) and still

guarding the priceless Pink Panther diamond.

When international über thief El Tornado rears his head and the panther goes missing once more, Clouseau is teamed with a gang of international inspectors (the likes of which include a very embarrassed Alfred Molina and Andy Garcia) to solve the case. Much mugging but precious little hilarity ensues.

Coraline holds thrills for all ages

Coraline

Director: Henry Selick
Stars: Dakota Fanning, Teri Hatcher
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●●●

STEVE GOW
 for Metro Canada

REVIEW Based on a popular novel by accomplished author Neil Gaiman, Coraline is, if nothing else, a breath of fresh air in the genre of family fare. Not only is it styled in the classic gothic look mastered by its director Henry Selick in The Nightmare Before Christmas, but Coraline is the first-ever stop-motion animated flick ever conceived for 3-D.

Coraline (voiced by Dakota Fanning) is a bored young girl who, after moving into a shared residence called the Pink Palace with her overworked-and-underattentive parents, discovers a mysterious door that leads to alternate universe.

In this world, she is greeted by friendly fireflies, entertained by jumping mice, tickled by snapdragons and even her doppelganger parents are way more benevolent despite the disturbing black buttons in place of their eyes.



A scene from the stop-motion animated film Coraline.

As the film's advertising points out, Coraline is a be-careful-what-you-wish-for story where the grass-is-always-greener soon turns pretty spooky black. Selick gives this fantasy a completely compelling look; his perfectly detailed stop-motion artistry the ideal forum for such a brooding fairy-tale.

As a family film however, one should take into account that Coraline is a rich, artistic experience and delves into some darker themes; some scary elements may not appeal to toddlers coddled by today's more conventional cinematic fare.

Still, Coraline is one family-based flick that will keep parents as white-knuckled as the kids.

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Coraline

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Movies

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World of thrills

Cities play big part in International

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

There isn't much that can upstage an actor like Clive Owen. After all, the English star has stolen scenes from the likes of Denzel Washington and Michael Caine; but in his latest movie, it may be the location of a pivotal scene that's getting all the attention.

Directed by Tom Tykwer (Run Lola Run), *The International* — in theatres next Friday — stars Owen as Interpol agent Louis Salinger, a man obsessed with taking down a notorious multinational bank that deals in fi-

Movie feature

nancing terror.

The crusade not only puts his life at risk, it takes him from Berlin to Milan to Istanbul. But of all the exotic countries where the film is set — the scene that truly stands out is a shoot-out at the Guggenheim Museum in Manhattan.

"I think it's one of the most brilliantly realized scenes I've ever been involved in," said Owen during a recent interview. "The fear I suppose, is that when you're doing a huge shoot-out like that, that you want it in keeping

with the rest of the film which is very believable."

That may have been harder than you realize. After all, although Owen and company actually shot in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar amongst thousands of actual market-goers, the Guggenheim was reconstructed as a set in Germany.

"(Tom) did a brilliant job in making it wildly entertaining but also you completely buy it — the scene is in keeping with the rest of the film."

The movie did shoot in other areas of New York however, truly making it an international thriller. Not

Naomi Watts and Clive Owen star in *The International*.

only are the Manhattan scenes the movie's most enduring for audiences, but as it turns out, the Big Apple may be Owen's favorite locale as well.

"New York is hugely exciting because it attracts interesting people from all over the world and it's always got a very amazing, particular energy," said the

London resident. "I've spent a long time (there), I've shot whole movies (there) and I never ever get bored of coming back. It's an amazing city."

Supernatural star steps into Jason's aim

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

FEATURE Jared Padalecki may be starring in the new big-screen version of Friday the 13th, but the lead actor behind TV's *Supernatural* had no grand illusions about it during a recent interview in Los Angeles.

"I'm not fooling myself; people aren't coming to see me, they're coming to see Jason," admitted the actor

regarding cinema's famous killer.

"I think there's something great about the mystery behind the mask and our Jason, Derek Mears, just the physical presence that he is."

There's no doubt about that. At six-foot-five, Mears is a looming gentleman, complete with a powerful build and shaved head. His presence even proceeds the stuntman-turned-actor as made evident by the rousing reception his

name garnered when it appeared on-screen during a preview showing in Hollywood.

"I have a lot of friends in the industry," the modest actor said, but in truth, Mears has been thrust into the public spotlight (thanks to the Internet) ever since he got cast as the infamous hockey-masked murderer.

His quick rise to fame is shocking, especially since the film doesn't hit theatres until next Friday ...

Friday the 13th in case you didn't know.

"(I get recognized) all the time," admitted Mears.

As Jason, Mears stars as the grown-up version of the boy-turned-vengeful psychotic who, after the murder of his mother, began to take his bloodlust out on unsuspecting (and often topless) campers. It's an especially violent reimagining of the original series, which began in 1980 and became the horror genre's most successful franchise.

British actor Hugh Dancy stars alongside Isla Fisher in *Confessions of a Shopaholic*.

Shopaholic actor gets ready to hit big time

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

FEATURE In his deep, smooth British accent, Hugh Dancy clears his throat and explains why he chose to get involved in the much-anticipated film *Confessions of a Shopaholic*.

"It always begins with the script, that goes without saying, but beyond that, it was the list of people that I would be working with," said the 33-year-old up-and-comer.

The Jerry Bruckheimer flick features redhaired bombshell and funny-woman Isla Fisher and is directed by P.J. Hogan, two professionals. Dancy jumped at the chance to work alongside.

The movie is based on Sophie Kinsella's bestselling novel of the same name about journalist Rebecca Bloomwood's (Fisher) struggle to keep her credit cards in her wallet.

His latest finished project, an independent film titled

Adam which recently screened at the Sundance Independent Film Festival, is slated to be released later this year.

Where in *Shopaholic* he plays your basic, cute and funny romantic lead, his character in Adam is a whole different story. It's a simple love story between a man and a woman living in a Manhattan apartment building who become involved.

But it's complicated by the fact his character, Adam, has Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism.

He's obviously proud of the film but didn't want to get too far ahead of himself and talk nominations or awards ceremonies.

"You have no idea with any movie, as you put it together, you can only go on your own tastes and hope it resonates with other people," he said.

• *Confessions of a Shopaholic* opens in theatres across Canada next Friday.

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-COMINGSOON.NET

CHRIS EVANS DAKOTA FANNING CAMILLA BELLE AND DJIMON HOUNSOU

ONE PUSH CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.

PUSH

14A VIOLENCE

WRITTEN BY DAVID BOURLA DIRECTED BY PAUL MCGUIGAN

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Enter for your chance to win a trip to Comic-Con® and a DC Comics Prize Pack. Visit Myspace.com/PushMovie

No purchase necessary. See contest rules for details.

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL

DC

Warner Bros. preps Green Lantern

Looks like Warner Bros. is getting serious about Green Lantern. The studio is deep in negotiations with Casino Royale director Martin Campbell to take on the live-action superhero adventure. IMDB.COM

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Convoluted plot mars Push

Push**Director:** Paul McGuigan**Stars:** Chris Evans, Dakota Fanning**Classification:** 14A**Rating:** ●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



Push is a film for those who might suspect their

palm reader is holding back on them. Exploring an incredulous secret world of the paranormally powered, Push turns psychics into superheroes in the latest thriller from Lucky Number Slevin's Paul McGuigan.

Chris Evans (Fantastic Four) stars as a so-called "mover" — someone with the ability to physically move objects telekinetically

— and we're not just talking bending spoons here, folks. When 13-year-old clairvoyant Cassie (Dakota Fanning) suddenly appears, she demands the pair track down a mysterious briefcase, which is hiding a concoction designed to dramatically intensify psychic ability.

The problem: They must beat a secret government organization to the serum and, specifically, a power-

ful agent named Henry Carver (Djimon Hounsou) who can force thoughts and emotions into others' minds.

If these characters all sound slightly derivative of the X-Men franchise, they are. But whereas that comic-book flick had a plot that was easy to digest, Push is convoluted and rather dubious. Then again, what do you expect from a flick

where "sniffers" can tell who you've been hanging around with just by smelling your toothbrush.

Push definitely has some entertaining ideas and McGuigan gives the thriller a measured pace with lots to look at. But as much as the muted tones of dirty Hong Kong works for the film, this was one mind Push's plot was unable to penetrate.



Chris Evans and Dakota Fanning play psychic superheroes in the sci-fi thriller Push.

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KEVIN JAMES is PAUL BLART MALL★COP

DON'T MESS WITH HIS MALL

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A HAPPY MADISON PRODUCTION "PAUL BLART: MALL COP" JAYMA MAYS KEIR O'DONNELL BOBBY CANNAVALE STEPHEN RANNAZZISI AND SHIRLEY KNIGHT SUPERVISED BY MICHAEL DILBECK MUSIC BY WADY WACHTEL EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JEFF SUSSMAN WRITTEN BY KEVIN JAMES & NICK BAKAY PRODUCED BY ADAM SANDLER JACK GIARRAPUTO TODD GARNER KEVIN JAMES BARRY BERNARDI DIRECTED BY STEVE CARR

PaulBlart-MallCop.ca

PG

NOW PLAYING

Check Theatre Directory or SonyPicturesReleasing.ca for Locations and Showtimes

STEVE MARTIN is INSPECTOR CLOUSEAU

INSPECT THE UNEXPECTED

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURES AND COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENT A ROBERT SIMONDS PRODUCTION STEVE MARTIN "THE PINK PANTHER 2" JEAN RENO ALFRED MOLINA EMILY MORTIMER ASHWARYA RAI BACHCHAN AND ANDY GARCIA WITH LILY TOMLIN AND JOHN CLEESE MUSIC BY CHRISTOPHE BECK EDITOR IRA SHUMAN SHAWN LEVY BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY MAURICE RICHLIN & BLAKE EDWARDS PRODUCED BY ROBERT SIMONDS SCREENPLAY BY SCOTT NEUSTADTER & MICHAEL H. WEBER DIRECTED BY HAROLD ZWART

PinkPanther.ca

PG

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ENTERTAINMENT

EnterTheUnderworld.ca

PG-13

SCREEN GEAR
PRODUCTION

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Check Theatre Directory or SonyPicturesReleasing.ca for Locations and Showtimes



Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., FEB. 6 TO THURS., FEB. 12. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

HALIFAX

BAYERS LAKE
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Bedtime Stories (G) Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30
Bride Wars (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:25-9:50
Coraline (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:25-6:30-8:55
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 8:45
Defiance (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:35-3:30-6:30-9:25
Frost/Nixon (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9
Gran Torino (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:35
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:3:55-6:55-9:45
Hotel for Dogs (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:30
Inkheart (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri 12:50-3:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Thu 12:50-3:35
Milk (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 6:40-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 9:30
New in Town (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 1:20-3:50-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 1:20-3:50-7:05-9:40
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:55-4:6:55-9:20 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:55-4:6:45-9:20
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:40-6:45-9:15
Push (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:15-9:50
Revolutionary Road (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Tue 1:05-4:15-6:55-9:45 Dolby Stereo Wed 1:05-4:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo Thu 1:05-4:15-

6:55-9:45
Slumdog Millionaire (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-6:50-9:30
Taken (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:25-4-7-9:30
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 1:10-3:35-6:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 1:10-3:35-7
The Uninvited (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-3:40-7:15-9:50
The Wrestler (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:30-7:15-9:55

IMAX
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-6:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:40

OXFORD THEATRE
6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488

Slumdog Millionaire (14) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 2-6:45-9:30 Mon 9:30 Tue-Thu 6:45-9:30

PARK LANE
5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

The Class (STC) Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Sun 12:20-3:10-6:20-9:10 Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Mon-Thu 3:10-6:20-9:10
Friday the 13th (18) Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 11:59
Frost/Nixon (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon 6:30
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Metropolitan Opera: Lucia di Lammermoor - Live (STC) Stadium Seating Sat 2
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:10-9:20 No Passes, Sta-

dium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-7:10-9:20
Push (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-7-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-7-9:40
Rachel Getting Married (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:05 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:40-9:05
The Reader (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 12:35-3:15-6:45-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat 6:45-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 12:35-3:15-6:45-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon 3:15-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 3:15-6:45-9:25
Taken (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-4-7:20-9:45 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-7:20-9:45
The Uninvited (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 1:20-4:10-6:50-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat 6:50-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 1:20-4:10-6:50-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon 4:10-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 4:10-6:50-9

LOWER SACKVILLE

LOWER SACKVILLE
760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza
902-869-2022

Coraline (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:10 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:45-3:10-6:45-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:10
Gran Torino (14) Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-3:30-6:30-9 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-9
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-9:20
Hotel for Dogs (G) Stadium Seating Fri 7 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7
New in Town (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:15
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Sta-

dium Seating Fri 7:10-9:40 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45-7:10-9:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 6:45-9 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3-6:45-9 Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45-9
Taken (14) Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:30 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3-7:10-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30

DARTMOUTH

DARTMOUTH
650 Portland St., 902-434-4200

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 7:30
Defiance (14) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:30-9:20 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2-6:30-9:20 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 6:30-9:20
Inkheart (PG) Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2:40
My Bloody Valentine (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital Thu 9
The Reader (14) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:40-9:15 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2:20-6:40-9:15 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 6:40-9:15
Revolutionary Road (14) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:35-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 2:10-6:35-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Wed 6:35-9:05 Dolby Stereo Thu 6:35-9:05
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18) Dolby Stereo Fri 6:50-9 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 2:50-6:50-9 Dolby Stereo Mon-Wed 6:50-9 Dolby Stereo Thu 6:50
The Wrestler (14) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:45-9:10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 2:30-6:45-9:10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:45-9:10
DARTMOUTH CROSSING
145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing, 902-481-3251
Bride Wars (PG) Dolby Stereo

Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:30-9:55
Coraline 3D (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-3:15-6:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1-3:30-6:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 8:55
Doubt (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:10-9:30
Gran Torino (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:40-3:35-6:35-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:50-3:35-6:35-9:20
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:25-3:25-6:30-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:30-9:40
Hotel for Dogs (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:25
Metropolitan Opera: Lucia di Lammermoor - Live NCM Event (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 2
My Bloody Valentine 3D (18) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 9:15
New in Town (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-6:55
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:15-9:45
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:35-4:15-7-9:25
Push (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:35-3:55-6:50-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:45-3:55-6:50-9:35
Slumdog Millionaire (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-6:40-9:30
Taken (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:25-7:25-9:55
The Uninvited (PG) Dolby

Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 7:20-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Wed 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30-4:20-9:50

TRURO

TRURO
20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 7
Coraline 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:20-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:30-7:20-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:30-6:55-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:55-9:05
Gran Torino (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:10-6:40-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 6:40-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 6:40-9:15
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2-6:30-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-9:10
Hotel for Dogs (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:40-6:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:30-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:50-7:30-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:50-7-8:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-8:55
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:15-7-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:15-6:45-8:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-8:55
Taken (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2:45-7:10-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 2:45-6:35-8:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:35-8:40
The Uninvited (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9

BRIDGEWATER

BRIDGEWATER
349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

Coraline (PG) Fri 6:40-9:05 Sat-Sun 2-6:40-9:05 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:05
Gran Torino (14) Fri-Thu 9:20
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri 6:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:15-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:15
New in Town (PG) Fri 6:35 Sat-Sun 2:05-6:35 Mon-Thu 6:35
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 2:20-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:10
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri 7:10-9:25 Sat-Sun 2:45-7:10-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:25
Push (14) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 2:30-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7-9:35
Taken (14) Fri 6:45-9 Sat-Sun 2:10-6:45-9 Mon-Thu 6:45-9

PUBLIC MEETINGS

School Review: Saint Mary's

The Halifax Regional School Board is currently conducting a school review of Saint Mary's School, a grade Primary to six school in Halifax.

In accordance with the *Education Act and Regulations*, an *Impact Assessment Report* has been prepared looking at potential options regarding the future of the school.

A Study Committee has been formed and has responded to the *Impact Assessment Report*.

As part of the process, the school board will hold public meetings to give the public an opportunity to make representations to the Study Committee's response.

The meetings will take place at the following times:

Tuesday, February 17, 2009, 6 p.m.
Saint Mary's School
5614 Morris Street
(If necessary)
Thursday, February 19, 2009, 6 p.m.
Saint Mary's School
5614 Morris Street



Members of the public interested in making a representation should contact the Halifax Regional School Board at 464-2000 ext. 2321 or e-mail corporatesecretary@hrsb.ns.ca.

A copy of the *Impact Assessment Report* and the Study Committee's response can be found on the board's website at www.hrsb.ns.ca/content/id/1030.html or by contacting the board using the information listed above.

A decision on the future of Saint Mary's School will be made by the school board no later than March 31, 2009.

The board could decide, among other things, to:

- keep the school open;
- consolidate the school, or a part of the school, with another public school; or
- permanently close the school.

The top pop albums, according to Billboard Magazine

1. Working On A Dream, Bruce Springsteen; 2. Fearless, Taylor Swift, right; 3. I AM...SASHA FIERCE, Beyoncé; 4. Dark Horse, Nickelback; 5. 808s and Heartbreak, Kanye West. REUTERS

movies&entertainment **23****Music**

The Rankin Family reunion

Cape Breton acts reunites for new album and tour following tragedy

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada



The Rankin Family knew all about the audacity of hope long before U.S. President Barack Obama came along.

The latest release from the Cape Breton-based family act, titled *These Are The Moments*, espouses weathering storms with optimism, pitting six new original tracks with the Juno and East Coast Music Award winners' lilting Celtic approach (among them Hopeville and single Breathe the Dream Pray Love) alongside remixed classics such as Fare Thee Well Love.

The timeliness of the release was unintentional, say Raylene and Jimmy Rankin, adding plans for the disc were in the works long before 2009's zeitgeist was associated with hope



These Are The Moments, the latest album from The Rankin Family, was released this week.

and change amidst tough times.

"We took inspiration from Fare Thee Well Love and Rise Again and made an album that extended that," says Raylene. "Songs that were about hope and living in the moment and

not looking back with regret ... And oddly enough, we started working on this album a good while before all this worldly turmoil had come to the fore. I think this album is very timely."

The family knows of what they speak. The

Rankin Family's successes have been accented by tragedy.

In early 2000, less than a year after the band members announced they would go their separate ways after a decade in the public eye, brother John

In concert

• The Rankin Family play the Metro Centre on Feb. 28.

Morris Rankin died in a car accident in Cape Breton.

After losing the band patriarch, the Rankins wouldn't tour or record together until late 2006, when they released *Reunion* and successfully toured (One show saw the Rankins receive a standing ovation before playing a single note). But early 2007 brought another loss, when sister and group co-founder Geraldine, who had not been part of the regular lineup, died of a brain aneurysm.

"It was awful at the time," recalls Jimmy of his brother's death. "You'd constantly be reminded of it in every newspaper you looked at. And it didn't seem fair, because with the

touring done, this was supposed to finally be the time John Morris had for his family. When you lose someone, it's like you close a door that you can never walk through again. But the support and condolences we got from the fans was overwhelming. They grieved with us. That really meant something."

But brighter days bring new faces. John Morris' daughter Molly will join the Rankin roster for selected dates on their current cross-country tour — the beginning, one might speculate, of a new generation of Rankins.

"We take it one day at a time. We don't think that far ahead," chuckles Jimmy. "But traditional Celtic music is thriving back where we're from. There's a surge of youth who have really embraced it. It's stronger than ever."

Bruce Peninsula lets loose

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada



With its seven-voice choir, dancing African guitars, chain-gang rhythms and prog-rock leanings, Bruce Peninsula is an unlikely convergence of sound.

If you listen closely between the call-and-response vocals, you can pick out the glockenspiel, tube bells, hammered dulcimer, washboard, vibraphone, timbale, marimba or even the karimba.

Just when you think you've got this 11-piece Toronto band pegged as some bizarre tribute to old time gospel, the two guitars, bass player and drummer fly off on a proggy tangent that wouldn't be out of place on an old Jethro Tull record.

And at the heart of it all is hulking frontman Neil Haverty. He possesses a gravelly growl powerful enough to cement the band's diverse elements together.

The band had its genesis when Haverty befriended Matt Cully and Misha Bower, two music fans immersed in the Appalachian Folkway recordings of Alan Lomax. They started experimenting with gospel and chain-gang songs. Friends were called in to provide



Bruce Peninsula's *A Mountain Is A Mouth* is now available.

extra voices.

Haverty, who is often joined by Bower on lead vocals, stresses that Bruce Peninsula is a collective.

"The truth is that there are five of us who actively contribute to the songwriting in the band," he says.

The proggy elements came to fruition when Haverty introduced an old friend from Hamilton, Ont., Steve McKay, to the band. McKay had complet-

ed his classical music studies at Queen's University where he had also developed a strong reputation as a rock drummer. When Bruce Peninsula needed a new drummer, he answered the call, bringing with him a love for '70s British prog rock.

"The prog stuff was going to happen anyways," McKay says. "I was always a fan of Jethro Tull, King Crimson and Yes."



Read our review of The Rankin Family's new album at metronews.ca

VS Vermont Frost Heaves

Halifax Metro Centre

Kids Kick It

with the Rainmen

HRM Kids Day

Sunday, Feb. 8

4:00 p.m.

\$5 child tickets

Age 17 and under; child must be accompanied by an adult
\$5 tickets available at Ticket Atlantic's
Metro Centre Box Office location only

For tickets
451-1221
www.rainmenbasketball.ca



The bestselling albums at Amazon.ca

1. Working On A Dream, Bruce Springsteen (Deluxe Edition); 3. Tonight, Franz Ferdinand; 4. Dark Horse, Nickelback; 5. Slumdog Millionaire soundtrack. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Metro recommends

• FRANZ FERDINAND, TONIGHT:

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

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2. Live Your Life T.I. ft. Rihanna
3. Right Now Akon
4. Whatever You Like T.I.
5. Let It Rock Kevin Rudolf
6. Hot N Cold Katy Perry
7. I'm So Paid Akon
8. My Life The Game
9. Womanizer Britney Spears
10. Sex On Fire Kings Of Leon

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Jessica Lalonde mines the past

Jazz artist goes old school on new disc

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Jessica Lalonde is all about the old school.

And she means really old school. The Midland, Ont.-born and Toronto-based songstress recently released her debut album *Spinning Daydreams*, a jazz-styled collection of crooning and swinging covers from the big-band era of 1930s and '40s.

It's a genius close to the heart of the musical theatre vet and student of Italian opera program Centro Studi Lirica, who cites as inspiration female crooners of yesteryear such as Billie Holiday, Judy Garland, Edith Piaf and Nina Simone. It's also a far cry from her family's tastes in music. Her parents

are avid classic rock fans, and brother Luke Lalonde fronts indie rock movers and shakers Born Ruffians.

"If you believe in reincarnation, part of me almost thinks I lived during that time," Lalonde laughs. "I spent a lot of time with my grandparents when I was little and that was their style of music. They would put on Tommy Dorsey and Vera Lynn. And there was just something about it that hit home. It always stuck with me."

Produced by Canadian jazz aristocrat Bill King, the disc is a kind of introduction for old and new fans of the genre. *Spinning Daydreams* has a healthy mix of ballads and boppers, among them Cole Porter's *Begin The Beguine* from the 1935 musical *Jubilee*

and Rogers and Hammerstein's Academy Award-winning 1945 hit *It Might As Well Be Spring*.

The collection, Lalonde says, was meant to invite new fans and inspire nostalgia. (The cover features a sepia-toned photo of her brandishing an old-fashioned microphone.)

"I picked a lot of my favourites, things I loved," she said. "If it was up to me I'd be doing a lot of ballads, but you can't do that on an album, you've got to have a balance."

The seasoned singer now faces uncharted waters: She frets over *Spinning Daydreams'* success, hoping her song choices will resonate with listeners as much as they have with her. But she continues to get her biggest thrill from



Spinning Daydreams is the new album from Jessica Lalonde.

winning over a crowd.

"Success to me is getting the opportunity to sing more," she said. "There's a terror to performing at first

because you've got this crowd hundreds of people deep in front of you, but I think you need that in a way to put on a good show."

Into The Wild's Canadian connection

Eddie Vedder is in a great mood. A few hours earlier, Barack Obama had been sworn in as the 44th president of the United States and Eddie was

elated. Ebullient. Euphoric. Effervescently, er, chatty.

Although we were going to talk about the upcoming reissue of Pearl Jam's *Ten* album (due March 24), which we did, eventually, we both got a little sidetracked on a matter of Canadiana.

A big mystery has been how Eddie came to cover *Hard Sun* by Indio, a now-obscure Canadian artist who has been AWOL for the better part of 20 years. Although the song still occasionally gets played on Canadian radio, *Big Harvest*, the album from whence it came, was deleted years ago. It's now one of those Holy Grail collectibles

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

alan@ongoinghistory.com

for a certain type of Canadian rock fan. Then suddenly, it shows up in a Sean Penn movie being sung by the Pearl Jam frontman. So, how did that happen?

CROSS: How did you come across the song *Hard Sun* for the *Into the Wild* soundtrack?

VEDDER: The Canadian connection! When Sean



Eddie Vedder covered *Hard Sun* by Canadian artist Indio on the *Into the Wild* soundtrack.

(Penn, the director) first showed me the movie, it was in the film. To be hon-

est, for me, it was the first time I'd ever heard it. But it felt like I had heard it. I couldn't tell if it was from the late '60s or mid-'70s. It had this kind of timeless thing about it.

CROSS: Sean Penn found the song?

VEDDER: Sean, at one point, knew Gordon (Peterson, the person behind Indio) or had been in contact with him or had friends who were friends of his. And Sean has really good, really eclectic musical tastes. He can quote Phil Ochs at the drop of a hat or recite a 12-minute Bob Dylan song. I think he knew this fellow, Gordon, and loved this song.

I wrote something for this part of the film (the soundtrack for *Into the Wild* is essentially an Eddie Vedder solo record) and he said "I think that's good, but I think we need to go with *Hard Sun*." And I thought, "Great. That's less work for me to do. And then he said, "No, no. YOUR version of it."

I tried to be really true to his delivery. It's a great, great song. But I've not met (Peterson) or talked to him. I hope he liked it.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Tasty! metro's kooolest

The Best Halifax has to Offer

Metro News and Kool 96.5 want YOU to weigh in on the city's coolest places to eat, party, shop – you name it!

Go to metronews.ca or kool965fm.ca to register your choice for this month's category:

Metro's Kooolest Coffee Shop!

One lucky player will win a prize pack valued at over \$100!

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New faces on Dancing With The Stars

Denise Richards and Jackass star Steve-O are set to appear on Dancing With The Stars, according to femalefirst.co.uk. They are believed to be joining legendary singer Stevie Wonder in the line-up. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Television

1M Xbox owners use Netflix

Online DVD company Netflix has said that one million Microsoft Xbox 360 video game console users have activated Netflix's movie streaming service in the past three months since the two companies formed a partnership.

Netflix said the Xbox LIVE community has watched 1.5 billion minutes of movies and TV episodes through its Watch Instantly video service, but did not say how many subscribers it has actually gained from the partnership.

Netflix, best known for renting DVDs by mail, is the only company offering a subscription-based

streaming video service as other rivals like Amazon.com, Apple, and Blockbuster compete with a la carte, pay-per-view rentals.

Analysts have been watching for data on the alliance as an important gauge of the emerging market for movies delivered over the web, particularly as traditional media companies like Walt Disney this week have reported declining DVD sales and said the traditional business for delivering home video needs to be revised.

Netflix last month said its stronger-than-expected quarterly results were propelled by growth

Blu-ray technology

This Netflix offers newer titles on DVD or high-definition Blu-ray Disc through its mail-order service, through a library of more than 100,000 titles.

in its web video streaming service and that streaming was "energizing" its growth.

Netflix has offered the Watch Instantly stream-

ing service for over two years, but it was originally only available on PCs. It has since offered streaming Netflix video from the Internet through various

devices, including the Roku settop boxes, the Xbox, LG Electronics products and others.

The Netflix application offers Xbox LIVE Gold members, who pay \$50 a year to Microsoft for various different applications, the ability to instantly view content from Netflix on a TV via the Xbox 360 system if they are also members of Netflix serv-

ice, priced at around \$9 per month to include Watch Instantly unlimited streaming.

Netflix's library of about 12,000 titles for instant viewing includes mostly older Hollywood titles as major movie studios have resisted making new releases available digitally for subscription services.

REUTERS

Saget's Suburbia finds home on ABC

TELEVISION ABC has picked up the Bob Saget-starring comedy Surviving Suburbia and scheduled the series to run after Dancing With the Stars in April.

Suburbia originally was planned as a midseason addition to the CW's Sunday night block. When the CW elected to pull the low-rated block from its lineup, producers continued shooting in hopes of attracting another buyer.

The collapse of the CW block turned out to be a blessing in disguise. ABC quickly stepped in and rescued the show, giving it a significant promotion. The move brings Bob Saget back to the network after playing a suburban dad for nearly a decade on Full House (1987-95).

Suburbia is about a couple who have been married for 20 years and have two children and a cookie-cutter house in the idyllic suburbs, but with Saget's character maintaining a cynical point of view.

Executive producer Michael Hanel said Saget's character is midway between the actor's wholesome image from Full House and his lurid standup.

"People will see him in a very different way from Full House," Hanel said.

The series will premiere April 6 at 9:30 p.m. behind Dancing With The Stars, filling the slot vacated by Samantha Who.

For more movies and entertainment news — along with sudoku, crosswords and the local news of the day — be sure to visit Metronews.ca.

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FRIDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
sports	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Wife Swap (N)	Supernanny (N)		20/20
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap (N)	Supernanny (N)	Stargate SG-1		
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	Just for Laughs (N)	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Ghost Whisperer (N)	Flashpoint (HDTV)	NUMB3RS (N)	
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	NUMB3RS (HDTV) (N)	Howie Do It (N)	Howie Do It	Friday Night Lights (N)		News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	Raising the Bar (N)	Ghost Whisperer (N)	Flashpoint (HDTV)	News (N)		News (N)
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted	Fox First
	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Howie Do It (N)	Howie Do It	Friday Night Lights (N)	Dateline NBC
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	World Cup of Poker	WWE SmackDown!				Score Tonight
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey	Montreal Canadiens at Buffalo Sabres. (HDTV) (Live)			SportsCentre
cable variety	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Three-Way"		CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami "Man Down"		CSI: Miami
	70	70	70	APTN	News		Mixed Blessing	Fish Out	Rabbit Fall	The Rez	Space Cowboys *** (2000, Adventure)	
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Killer Whale and Crocodile	Bravo! Fact	Drumline *** (2002, Comedy-Drama)	Nick Cannon.		
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Good Morning	Corner Gas	22 Minutes	The Simpsons	South Park
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live	Cooper 360
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Discovery Project Earth		Man vs. Wild	Deranged (N)
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Extreme Home	Extreme Living	Location, Loc.
	46	46	46	HIST	Urban Legends	Urban Legends	NCIS "In the Dark"		Shockwave		Urban Legends	Urban Legends
	17	17	17	MM	Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Brooke Knows	Brooke Knows	America's Best Dance Crew		All About the Benjamins (2002, Action)	
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:10) Mask (1985)		(8:15) Blood for Blood ** (1974, Suspense)				Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter (1984)	

SATURDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
sports	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	Wrld News Sat	Legend of the Seeker		Grey's Anatomy	Private Practice		Housewives
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Dragonwheel (2002, Romance-Comedy)	Krista MacDonald.		Comedy Now (DVS)		Raising Rover
	11	11	11	CBC	Sat. Report	Hockey Night	NHL Hockey	Toronto Maple Leafs at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)				NHL Hockey
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	CBS News	Entertainment Tonight	Cold Case "Family 8101"		NCIS "About Face"		48 Hr. Mystery
	6	6	6	CHIF	Global Currents: Stolen Sisters		Masterminds	Masterminds	Embracing Da Kink		Go Deep	News (N)
	9	9	9	CJCH	W-FIVE (DVS)		Law & Order: SVU		Cold Case "Family 8101"		Flashpoint	News (N)
	36	36	36	FOX	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup -- Budweiser Shootout.		Fox First	
	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Access Hollywood (N)		Heroes (HDTV)		Law & Order "Falling"	Law/Ord SVU
	55	55	55	SCOR	MMA Show	Footy Show	World Poker Crown		BodogFight		College Basketball Memphis at Gonzaga.	
	53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre		World Series of Poker: Europe		NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup -- Budweiser Shootout.			SportsCentre
cable variety	16	16	16	A&E	Paranormal	Paranormal	CSI: Miami "Pirated"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami
	70	70	70	APTN	Cooking-Wifm	MYTV	Music Speaks	The Mix	Rez Bluez "Bluez Legends"		The Astronaut's Wife (1999, Science Fiction)	
	37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo/Videos	At the Concert Hall		Death at-Opera	Broadway	Bowfire (N)	
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comics!	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	Blue Collar TV	The Simpsons	South Park
	18	18	18	CNN	The Situation Room		Newsroom		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live	D.L. Hughley
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Cash Cab (N)	Out in the Cold	Toughest Race: Iditarod		Destroyed	Time Warp
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Top Design		Million Dollar Listing	Criss Angel
	46	46	46	HIST	Battle 360		NCIS "Ravenous"		Ancestors	Ancestors	Captain Corelli's Mandolin (2001, Drama)	Extreme-Home
	17	17	17	MM	America's Best Dance Crew		All About the Benjamins ** (2002, Action)	Ice Cube.			Gossip Girl (HDTV)	Muchmsc Ctdn
	206	206	206	PIX	Who's Afraid of Virginia		(8:10) The Mighty *** (1998, Drama)	Sharon Stone.			Friday the 13th Part V * (1985, Horror)	

SUNDAY

	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00				
pr	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC News	Funniest Home Videos	Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers				
	7	7	7	ASN	Young Blades		Funniest Home Videos	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Medium				
	11	11	11	CBC	Heartland (N) (DVS)		Figure Skating ISU Four Continents	Championships -- Gala.		CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		Who Do-Think				
	32	32	32	CBS	PGA Tour Golf	News (N)	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)	The 51st Annual Grammy Awards (HDTV) (Live)								
	6	6	6	CHIF	16:9 Picture	King of the Hill	ET Canada-Grammy	The 51st Annual Grammy Awards (HDTV) (Live)								
	9	9	9	CJCH	Star Wars Clo.	Degrassi: TNG	The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)	To Be Announced		Desperate Housewives		News (N)				
	36	36	36	FOX	Cold Case "The House"		Hole in the Wall (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	Fox First				
	12	12	12	NBC	(5:30) NFL Football AFC-NFC Pro Bowl. (HDTV) (Live)						Dateline NBC		XIII (2009, Suspense) Val Kilmer.			
	55	55	55	SCOR	Score Update		The WWE Experience		BodogFight		Strikeforce		Poker			
s	53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre		Curling 2009 M&M Meat Shops Canadian Juniors -- Men's Final. From Salmon Arm, B.C. (Live)									
	16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami "Pirated"		CSI: Miami "Ambush"	CSI: Miami "All In"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Sopranos				
	70	70	70	APTN	Great Towns		MYTV	Rez Bluez "Bluez Legends"		Music Speaks	The Mix	Demolition Man ★★ (1993, Science Fiction)				
	37	37	37	BRVO	Mad Men "5G"			Arts & Minds	Bravo! Fact	Happy Endings?		The Girl Next Door ★★ (2004)				
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs		Comics!	Winnipeg Comedy Festival		Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park			
	18	18	18	CNN	Fareed Zakaria GPS			Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live	Newsroom			
	38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab		How It's Made	MythBusters		Machines of Malice (N)		Machines of Malice (N)	MythBusters			
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes			House Hunters	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Buy Me	Extreme Makeover: Home	Real Renos			
	46	46	46	HIST	Underground War			NCIS "Bait"		Nuclear Sharks		K-19: The Widowmaker (2002, Suspense)				
	17	17	17	MM	Gossip Girl (HDTV)			America's Best Dance Crew		So You Think You Can Dance The top 12.			Dance			
c	206	206	206	PIX	(6) The Usual Suspects		(7:50) Out of Sight ★★★ (1998, Crime Drama)					Friday the 13th, Part VI: Jason Lives ★				
	39	39	39	SHOW	TBA		Trailer Park		The Guard "Live Free"		Paget Brewster.		Damages			
	40	40	40	SLICE	Tori & Dean		Newlywed		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Til Debt-Part	Chop Shop	End of Leash	Spoiled Rotten	Biggest Loser	
	21	21	21	TLC	627 LB Woman: Jackie's Story				Pregnant for 46 Years		Pregnant Man (HDTV)		Mermaid Girl (HDTV)		Giant Legs	
	22	22	22	W	Monster in		Hwd 10 Best		Grocery		Style by Jury		Verdict in Blood (2002, Mystery) Wendy Crewson, Robert Davi.		Confessions	
	27	27	27	YTV	The Princess Bride ★★★ (1987, Adventure) Cary Elwes.						SpongeBob		Prank Patrol		The Next Star	Adrenaline Proj

Going Away

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA



Relax on one of Costa Rica's many beaches, including Malpaís Beach, left, or venture into the capital, San José, and visit historical attractions like The Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, right.

Rainforests meet the beach

Costa Rica is packed with attractions, nature and spots to relax

ANDERS FALKIRK
Metro World News

Costa Rica — the tiny country tucked between Nicaragua and Panama in the strip that links Latin America to the U.S. — is packed with attractions.

Amazing nature, an exciting capital city, luxurious beach life, pioneering eco-tourism and home to more than five per cent of the world's flora and fauna species. So, how to choose? Here are four ideas:

Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve: A late discovery

Costa Rica's most famous natural attraction is the clouded forests of Monteverde, high up in the mountain chain, Cordillera de Tilarán. The mountains were charted as late as the 1980s by American biologists and immediately became an attraction thanks to the beautiful and abundant flora and fauna there.

Unfortunately there's plenty of theme park tourism here including cable-gliding between tree-tops and guided tours on quadbikes.

However, it is easy to escape this commercial side of Monteverde by venturing into the nature reserves of Reserva Biológica Bosque Nuboso Monteverde or Reserva Santa Helena, where only boots

and backpacks are allowed — and the mystique of the clouded forest is preserved.

The unique reserve is home to more than 400 bird species, 490 types of butterfly, 100 species of mammal, 2,500 plant species — 500 of which are orchids. Keep an eye out for the sacred bird of the Maya Indians and the area's symbol, the quetzal, with its splendid metallic green back, red belly and tail of long feathers.

Corcovado: Beach life with a difference

If Monteverde is too much of a drive-through jungle for your taste, there are of course more challenging eco-experiences in Costa Rica — for example in Parque Nacional Corcovado by the Pacific Ocean.

The park is situated on a peninsula by the border with Panama. It was named "the most biologically intense place on earth" by National Geographic magazine. Here rainforests,

swamps, rivers and beautiful sandy beaches meet. There's an enormous range of animals

American jaguar, sea turtles and many types of dolphins. The best place to spot

tering waves makes it possible for hikers to walk almost undetected.

Camping costs a few dollars at ranger stations in the national park, and there are bunk beds at Sirena, from \$10 a night.

San José: The small but fun capital city

San José isn't a spectacular big city, but it is exciting all the same. The central areas feature a mix of colonial architecture with office blocks from the 1960s, and the streets are filled with crowds of salesmen, students and office workers.

In Escazú and the more fashionable suburbs there are modern shopping centres and more luxurious restaurants. In the university areas San Pedro and Los Yoses there are lots of bars and clubs.

There are fun things to do everywhere in town. San José is relatively safe, but crime does exist, so visitors

If you go

Where to stay: Anywhere from hostels to all-inclusive resorts. Prices are reasonable.

What to eat: There are restaurants to suit all budgets, but the most fun is going to a "soda," a mix of cheap local restaurant and fast food stand.

Languages: Spanish, though English is widely spoken.

Currency: \$1 = 458 Colónes. Most stores, restaurants and hotels accept U.S. dollars. Cash machines are surprisingly common.

Santa Teresa: Surfing and jetsetting

It isn't easy to get to Santa Teresa by the Pacific, but it is well-worth the effort. The beach goes on for miles, the sea feels infinite and the coast is lined with lush green forests.

There is no untouched nature here, with the exception of National Park Cabo Blanco and its howler monkeys. Away from the coast there is an idyllic countryside with tiny villages, children playing, chickens, flowering gardens and senior citizens resting in rocking chairs.

Santa Teresa itself, and the neighbouring village Malpaís, consist of a series of restaurants, bars, hostels, yoga hotels and private villas host celebrities, including Leonardo DiCaprio, Mel Gibson and Kate Moss.

But far from being glitzy, the beaches and nightlife belong to the surfers, which gives the place a laidback and groovy atmosphere.

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here: Baird's tapir, Giant Anteater, Capuchin monkeys, the timid central

these creatures is the beaches, where the constant noise from the bat-

shouldn't walk around the city alone at night, and watch for pickpockets.



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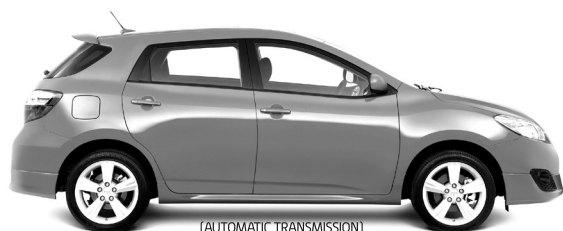
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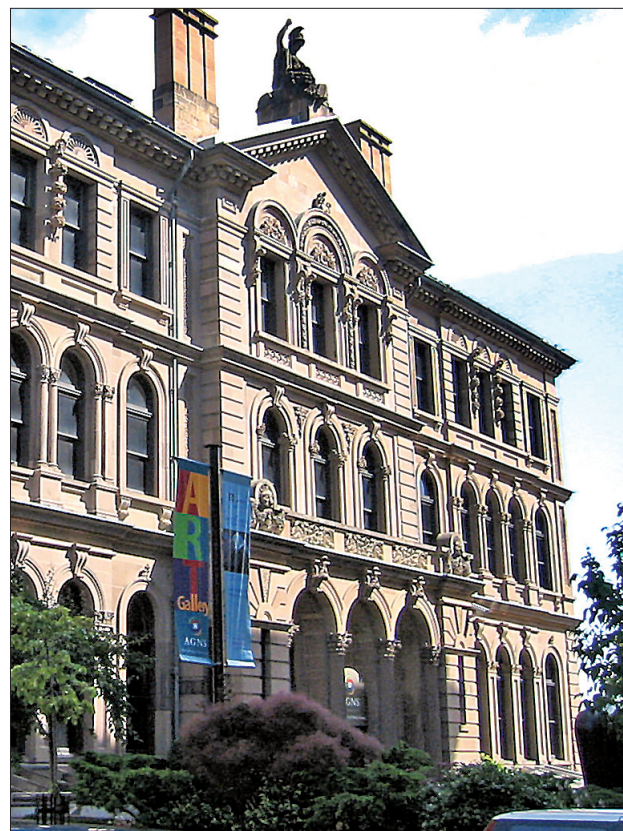
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Going Out



It's Family Sunday at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Use sugar and frosting-style paint to make a Valentine.

Mix of Six

For more great events around the city, visit:
metronews.ca/entertainment

LEGO display of the waterfront

When: Until Sun. Feb. 8
Where: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, 1675 Lower Water St., Halifax

The LEGO display of the Halifax waterfront, set up around Christmas by members of the Nova Scotia Lego Users Group, will come down after this weekend. If you haven't seen it yet, check it out. Tickets: \$4.75 adult admission/\$4 seniors/\$2.75 kids aged 6 to 17.

Valentine's at the art gallery

When: Sun. Feb. 8, 1-4 p.m.
Where: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 1723 Hollis St., Halifax

It's Family Sunday at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Use sugar and frosting-style paint to make a Valentine. Check out the Silver Dart photo exhibit, or see the Joe Farafid exhibition before it closes to the public. Tickets: \$10 adults/\$5 students/\$3 children aged 6-17.

Chef for a day

When: Sat. Feb. 7
Where: Chef for a Day with Chef Renee Lavalle

As part of the Savour Food and Wine festival, Five Fishermen Chef Renee Lavalle will take 13 guests to the market, select food for a gourmet lunch, then take them back to the Five Fishermen kitchen and show them how to cook it. Tickets: \$100 (limit of 13 people).

The heavens

When: Sat. Feb. 7, 7 p.m.
Where: Burke-Gaffney Observatory Saint Mary's University
Check out the heavens: On the first and third Saturday of every month, the public can see the planets, the moon, and other interesting celestial objects with the Burke-Gaffney Observatory's 40-centimetre telescope. There are no tours on cloudy or rainy nights though.

Ice Age

When: Till May 31
Where: Museum of Natural History,
Check out the Ice Age Mammals exhibit at the Museum of Natural History. Learn about the factors from four million to 10,000 years ago that changed our climate.

The Herd

When: Feb. 6 and Feb. 7
Where: Halifax Metro Centre
The Herd play two home games this weekend: On Friday, they'll take on the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies, and on Saturday, it's the Rimouski Oceanic. Tickets: \$14.50 adults/\$10.75 students/\$9 youth.

Pushing Daisies star Swoosie Kurtz is set to visit Wisteria Lane. The actress, who played Aunt Lily on ABC's canceled series, is guest-starring on Desperate Housewives as a potential love interest for one of the characters. TVGUIDE.COM

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot

1 He's Just Not That Into You

FILM Smells like a girls' night out. The bestselling self-help book gets the silver screen treatment, with a host of Hollywood A-listers (Scarlett Johansson, Ben Affleck among them) on board. Box-office gold and female fandom seem inevitable.



2 Grammy Awards

TV North American music industry's biggest night features Coldplay and Lil Wayne among performers and nominees this year. Nods for Radiohead's download miracle In Rainbows add a little hipster gloss to the whole affair. Airs Sunday on Global at 8 p.m. ET.

3 Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist

DVD Although this New York romance is aimed squarely at the teen

set, the smart dialogue and smarter soundtrack make it a perfect Valentine's Day rental for everyone. Superbad star Michael Cera and indie-darling Kat Denning play the title characters.



4 Erykah Badu's childbirth blog

BLOG The American singer gave birth to a baby girl last weekend and Twittered the whole experience. While many artists have begun using the social-networking site to make announcements about their careers, Badu might be the first on record to use it to chronicle a birth.



5 Google Latitude

APPLICATION Want to know where your kids are? The Internet giant's new software released this week will enable people with mobile phones and other wireless devices to automatically share their whereabouts with family and friends.

6 Christian Bale's rant remix

VIDEO Here's a formula for a YouTube hit: Mix trashy techno with celebrity F-bombs. Los Angeles knob-twiddler RevoLucian did just that with the recently leaked tape of Christian 'Dark Knight' Bale's on-set meltdown. The ensuing result is as viral as they get.

7 Fendi's Peek-A-Boo handbag

FASHION The Italian fashion house unzipped this must-have accessory in Miami and wowed style pundits. Versions seen so far: tan leather with a python interior, and black suede with netting on the outside. The bags will be available in the U.S. next month.

Jolie urges Thailand to welcome Muslim refugees

GENEVA Angelina Jolie, a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations refugee agency, urged Thailand on Thursday to welcome Muslim refugees fleeing Myanmar.

Thailand's treatment of the Rohingyas, an oppressed Muslim minority from mainly Buddhist Myanmar, has been widely condemned as evidence emerges that hundreds were rounded up by the Thai military and towed out to sea.

Jolie issued the plea during a visit to camps in northern Thailand which house 111,000 mostly Christian ethnic Karen refugees from Myanmar.

"Visiting Ban Mai Nai Soi and seeing how hospitable Thailand has been to 111,000 mostly Karen and Karenni refugees over the years, makes me hope that Thailand will be just as generous to the Rohingya refugees who are now arriving on their shores," the

Oscar-winning actress said in a statement issued by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.



Angelina Jolie

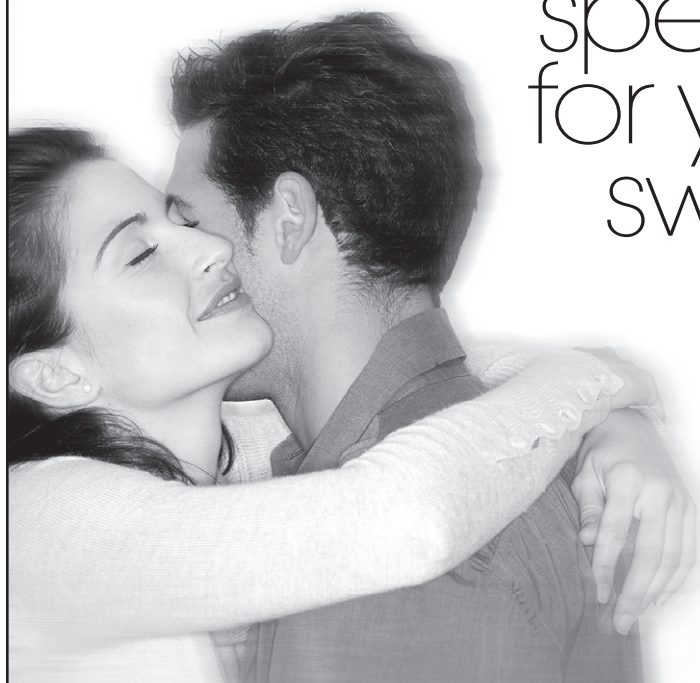
Since becoming goodwill ambassador for the Geneva-based agency in 2001, Jolie has visited refugees in more than 20 hotspots including Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Sudan.

Two Rohingya boat people found off Indonesia this week said they were rounded up and beaten by the Thai army before being cast adrift in rickety, engineless boats.

Thailand's military has admitted towing hundreds out to sea and cutting them adrift, but insisted they had adequate food and water and denied reports the boats' engines were sabotaged.

REUTERS

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Archuleta will sing at NFL Pro Bowl

David Archuleta will be the latest American Idol alum to show off his patriotic chops when he sings the National Anthem at the NFL Pro Bowl on Sunday. "(It'll) be my first time in Hawaii! Woot woot!" the 18-year-old writes on his MySpace page. **PEOPLE.COM**

Master Mind voices

Stiller, Fey and Downey may lead new superhero DreamWorks Animation film

Robert Downey Jr., Tina Fey and Ben Stiller are in negotiations to lead the voice cast for DreamWorks Animation's superhero lark Master Mind.

The satiric film, with a screenplay by Alan J. Schoolcraft and Brent Simons, concerns a brilliant superhero villain who loses his life's purpose when he accidentally kills his good-guy nemesis. DWA plans a Nov. 5, 2010 release (though the title might change). Stiller is a producer on the movie through his Red Hour Films.

DWA had a banner year in 2008 with its releases Kung Fu Panda and Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (also starring Stiller), which together have grossed more than \$1.2 billion worldwide. The Jeffrey Katzen-

berg-led company also has Monsters vs. Aliens in theatres in March, How to Train Your Dragon and Shrek Goes Fourth in 2010, and a Kung Fu Panda sequel scheduled for 2011.

Paramount, which distributes DWA's output, has its own animated feature, Rango, starring Johnny Depp, in production for a March 2011 release.

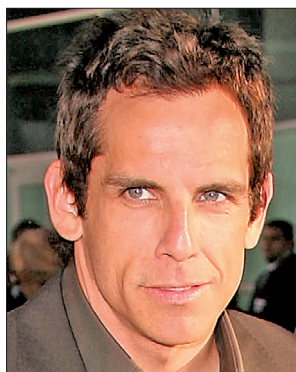
Fey, who produces, writes and stars in 30 Rock on NBC, will star in the 20th Century Fox comedy feature Date Night with Steve Carell.

Stiller, co-writer, director and star of the DreamWorks comedy Tropic Thunder, will next be on the big screen in the May release Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian.

Downey Jr., Oscar-nominated for his supporting

role in Tropic Thunder, has Sherlock Holmes and Iron Man 2 in production this year, and The Soloist hitting theaters in April.

REUTERS



Actors Ben Stiller, Tina Fey and Robert Downey Jr. are in negotiations to lend their voice work to DreamWorks Animation movie Master Mind, a superhero lark.

Sundance film sparks distributors' legal battle

FILM Lionsgate and The Weinstein Company on Wednesday filed duelling lawsuits against each other over Sundance Film Festival hit Push: Based on the Novel by Sapphire, throwing into question who owns distributions rights to the urban drama.

In its suit, filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court, Lionsgate claims that TWC does not have "any right, title or interest" in the picture, which won both the grand jury and audience drama prizes in Park City. The company is seeking a judge's declaration to that effect.

Lionsgate filed the suit, it argues in the complaint, because of "threatened litigation" on the part of TWC over theatrical rights to Lee Daniels' inner-city tale.

Several hours after word surfaced of the Lionsgate suit, Weinstein Company reps said the company had filed its own suit against both Lionsgate and sales agent Cinetic Media, which represented the filmmakers, for breach of contract and inducing breach of contract. TWC argues that there was a contract in place for the New York company to buy the movie.

"TWC reached a firm agreement for the rights to Push: Based on the Novel by Sapphire. Behind their backs Cinetic Media tried to make a better deal with Lionsgate. Lionsgate was well aware of the TWC contract but went forward anyway," said Bert Fields, who along with David Boies is representing TWC.

REUTERS

"TWC reached a firm agreement for the rights to Push."

Bert Fields, TWC representative

Entertainment in brief

FILM Monster producer Clark Peterson is tracking down another serial killer. Peterson will produce Dear Mr. Gacy, based on the real-life story of Jason Moss, a college student who became obsessed with notori-

ous serial killer John Wayne Gacy. William Forsythe (The Rock) will play Gacy, and Jesse Moss, who stars in Paramount's current release The Uninvited, will play the role of Jason Moss.

REUTERS



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THE END

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Celebrity Buzz

Noel the next U.K. prime minister?

POLITICS Noel Gallagher wants to be Britain's next prime minister, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Oasis star plans on having a "proper laugh" once he is running the country. He said: "There will be a groundswell of public opinion sooner or later which will carry me into office. And let me tell you, I'll only be there five years and it'll all end in tears — but it will be a proper, proper laugh while it's happening."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Pot pics tough to explain to mom

DRUGS Michael Phelps admits it "definitely wasn't easy" explaining those pot pics to his mom, Debbie, a middle-school principal, usmagazine.com reports. "Seeing my mom reminded me of how it was the day after I got my DUI, and I swore to myself I'd never do that again," Phelps — who was arrested in 2004 at age 19 for DUI — told the Baltimore Sun. The swimmer could face criminal charges for the alleged marijuana incident, The State newspaper of Columbia, S.C., reported Tuesday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Cruise loving life in Brazilian capital

TRAVEL Apparently Tom Cruise hasn't been hanging out in Rio de Janeiro just to promote his film Valkyrie. While staying in the Brazilian city with wife Kaite Holmes, Cruise "took a side trip to the private island of plastic surgeon Dr. Ivo Pitanguy, who has his own landing strip and a menagerie of exotic animals," according to Page Six. He also told reporters he fell in love with Brazil watching movies about samba and tango — although the tango is an Argentine dance.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Rihanna is obsessed with boyfriend Brown

RELATIONSHIPS Rihanna is so obsessed with boyfriend Chris Brown she can't let him out of her sight, according to femalefirst.co.uk.

The singer started dating Brown in 2007 and friends claim she's so in love she doesn't like being separated from him.

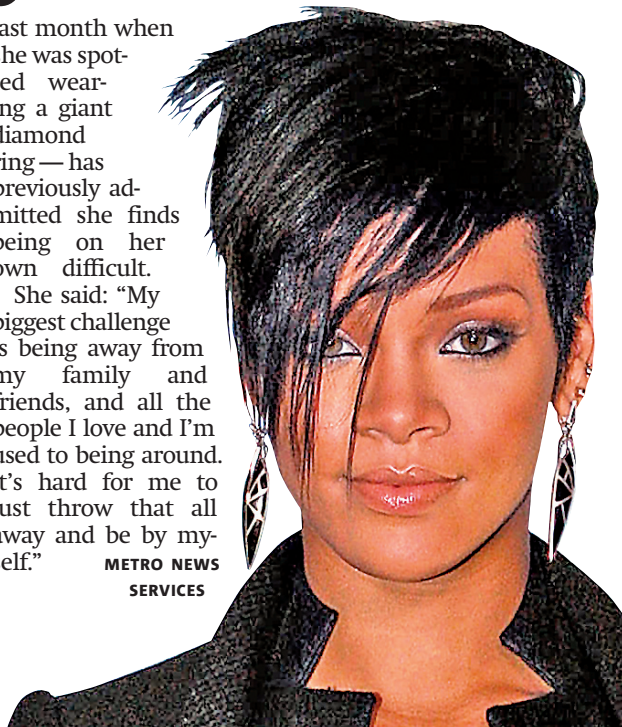
A source told America's OK magazine: "She has to have Chris around her 24/7. If Chris is with her on a photo shoot and steps away for a second, she starts saying, 'Where did he go?'"

"If Chris isn't with her, she wants to call and check in every second. She's crazy about him. Rihanna constantly talks about Chris."

The 20-year-old singer — who prompted rumours she was engaged to Brown, 19,

last month when she was spotted wearing a giant diamond ring — has previously admitted she finds being on her own difficult. She said: "My biggest challenge is being away from my family and friends, and all the people I love and I'm used to being around. It's hard for me to just throw that all away and be by myself."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Britney, ex close to custody deal

COURTS Britney Spears and Kevin Federline are close to finalizing a custody arrangement allowing them both time to spend with their sons during Spears' tour,

people.com reports. Federline's lawyer Mark Vincent Kaplan tells E! News that an agreement can be reached in "probably the next day."

Spears already has said sons Preston, 3, and

Jayden, 2, would be joining her on the road when her two-month Circus tour kicks off on March 3 in New Orleans.

Spears will probably see her boys on "pretty much the same schedule that she has now," Kaplan tells E!.

Federline, 30, has primary custody of the boys, but Spears, 27, has nearly 50-50 access to them in visitation rights.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Beyoncé has 'no business' singing my songs: James

LEGEND Soul veteran Etta James has apparently had enough of Beyoncé Knowles stealing her act. Knowles portrayed James in the film Cadillac Records and performed

James' classic hit At Last for Barack Obama at an inauguration ball for the U.S. president.

But now James is hitting back. "You know that woman he had singing for him, singing my song — she's gonna get her ass whooped,"

James said at a Seattle concert, according to Perez Hilton. "I can't stand Beyoncé. She has no business up there."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Alba 'cried' during post-baby workouts

PREGNANCY Jessica Alba wants the world to know her body-after-baby secret — and it has nothing to do with celery sticks or crunches at the gym, people.com reports.

"I wore a girdle," the actress, 28, tells the March issue of Elle. "Eight weeks after my girlfriend had her baby, you could see her six-pack. She told me to put an elastic band around my waist — any kind of band or girdle works."

Adds Alba, "I didn't recover as fast as she did. I don't have a six-pack — that's just not my body at all."

The actress confesses that she tried working out to get in shape for a calendar shoot, but quickly gave it up. "[The workouts] were horrible," she tells the magazine. "I cried. And I haven't worked out since."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Miley says pics just 'goofy'

CONTROVERSY Miley Cyrus is finally speaking out on controversial photos that show her using her fingers to make her eyes slant, which is considered degrading to Asian people, usmagazine.com reports.

"I've also been told there are some people upset about some pictures taken of me with friends making goofy faces! Well, I'm sorry if those people looked at those pics and took them wrong and out of context!" she writes on her official fansite. "In no way was I making fun of any eth-

nicity! I was simply making a goofy face. When did that become newsworthy?" she adds. "It seems someone is trying to make something out of nothing to me. If that would of [sic] been anyone else, it would of been overlooked! I definitely feel like the press is trying to make me out as the new 'BAD GIRL.'"

An advocate group released a statement earlier saying the 16-year-old "encouraged and legitimized the taunting and mocking of people of Asian descent, (and) she has also insulted her many Asian Pacific American fans."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



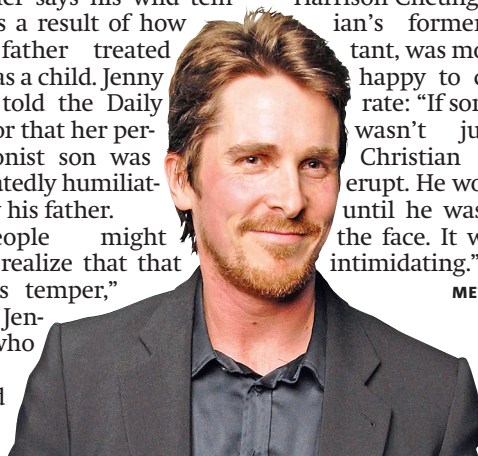
Bale's mom explains temper

IMAGE Christian Bale's mother says his wild temper is a result of how his father treated him as a child. Jenny Bale told the Daily Mirror that her perfectionist son was repeatedly humiliated by his father.

"People might now realize that that is his temper," said Jenny, who accused her son

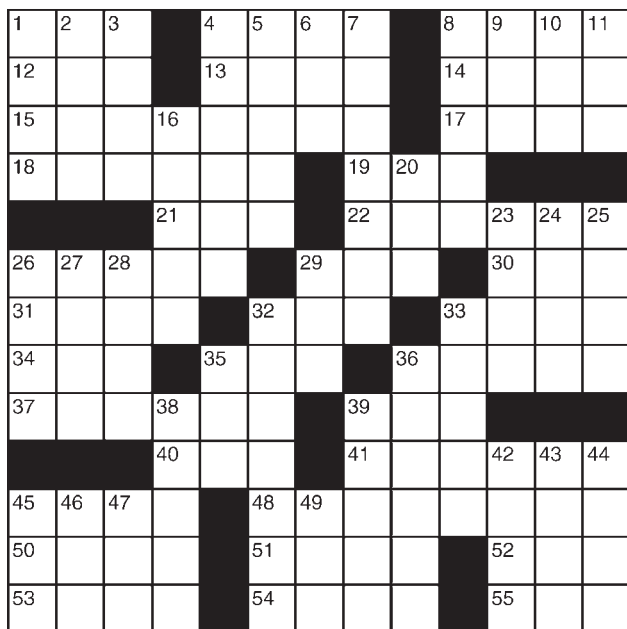
of assault last year. And Harrison Cheung, Christian's former assistant, was more than happy to corroborate: "If something wasn't just so, Christian would erupt. He would yell until he was red in the face. It was very intimidating."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

Take Five



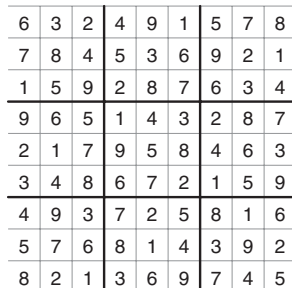
Crossword across

- 1 The girl
4 Scoot
8 Calculator symbol
12 Parcel of land
13 Ethereal
14 Prevalent
15 Hardly a fussy eater?
17 "Once — a time, ..."
18 Lighthouse light
19 Blue
21 Timecard abbr.
22 Brunch entrée
26 Pal of D'Artagnan
29 Use 35-Across
30 "That feels so good!"
31 Yonder, to an old salt
32 Shade
33 Remedy
34 Mal de —
35 Stovetop item
36 Move laterally
37 Greek concluders
39 One for the road?
40 Egos' counterparts
41 Emphasize
45 Crony
48 Navel
50 Hair salon request
51 Diligence
52 Mud bath site
53 Actress Hathaway
54 Wield needles
55 Always, in verse

Crossword down

- 1 Unkempt one
2 Base runner's goal
3 Sicilian spouter
4 Partygoers' mementos
5 They have their pride
6 Mess up
7 Unpleasant sight
8 Overly decorous one
9 Back talk
10 Martian craft
11 Sun Yat- —
16 Blood of the gods
20 Rocker Winehouse
23 Praise to the skies
24 Count counterpart
25 Quaker's address
26 Prefix with "sphere"
27 Outsiders
28 Aesopian also-ran
29 Enjoyment
32 Footstool
33 Approximately
35 Cushion
36 Potpourri pouch
38 Greedy kid's cry
39 Pants style named for an island
42 Differently
43 "Unh-unh"
44 Despot
45 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
46 Female lobster
47 Coffee vessel
49 Fellow

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart	
Under 13 min	Genius	21-25 min	Not bad
13-17 min	Scholar	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Fish and Vegetable Stew

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) olive oil
2 onions, finely chopped
3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
1 large red pepper, seeded and thinly sliced
1 lb (500 g) sweet potato, peeled and cut into cubes
2 cups (500 ml) fish or vegetable stock
1 tsp (5 ml) chopped fresh thyme
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 2/3 cups (400 ml) frozen peas, thawed and drained
1 1/4 cups (300 ml) corn kernels
1 lb (500 g) skinless white fish fillets, cut into bite-sized pieces
Fresh thyme leaves to garnish

METHOD:

1. Heat oil in large frying pan with lid over moderate heat. Add onions and garlic and cook 5 minutes,

stirring frequently, until onions are light gold.
2. Add red pepper and sweet potato, cover and cook 5 minutes, or until sweet potato begins to soften. Stir in stock, thyme and pinch of salt. Boil, then reduce heat, cover and simmer 10 minutes, or until sweet potato is just tender. Stir in peas and corn kernels.
3. Place fish on top of vegetables. Cover and cook gently 8-10 minutes, or until fish is cooked through. Season to taste with black pepper, then serve immediately sprinkled with fresh thyme leaves.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Your resourcefulness will be indispensable in a crisis. Try to be surprised when you're told an idea. You'll contact an old friend with a new device.



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

A woman will inspire an admirer's love poetry. Someone wants to take advantage of you. You might have to lend money to a friend.



LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

You'll confide your wishes to a trusted friend. A social event will become ridiculous. A woman's timing will be off.



SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

An ironic twist of fate will have a weird benefit. Bizarre deeds will cause tempers to flare. A miserable affair will come to a blissful end.



GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

Brace yourself for some unfair accusations. A man will bend the rules to win. You'll be put to the test by a free-thinker.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

You'll learn to control your inclination to be outspoken. Mechanical trouble slows down your progress. A man won't respond to urgent messages.



CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

You have to be practical about an illness. Your sympathy won't help to fan the flames of love. Eat sparingly or you'll risk getting an upset stomach.



CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

You'll give advice to a traumatized person. A woman will let go of a grudge. Someone will discover that you lied.



LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

You'll get your chance to catch up to a show-off. A high level of excitement will thrill you. You'll think twice before indulging in delicious foods.



AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

A former sweetheart will have a change of heart. Don't be surprised when an older friend calls. A nasty person is very depressed.



VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

You'll have to clear a path between friends. The subject of security will come up in a dispute. You'll analyze your instinctive reactions.



PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

Information about a confusing issue will calm your fears. Chaos will develop when someone gets a crazy notion. You'll find it easy to forgive someone.



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15% OFF
ALL SMALL APPLIANCES
INCLUDING KITCHENAID, KRUPS, CUISINART, BEAUMARK® & HAMILTON BEACH



UP TO 75% OFF
END-OF-THE-LINE
CLEARANCE
MATTRESSES
Selection will vary by store.

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN NEW MARKDOWNS JUST TAKEN!

UP TO 70%ff Clearance-priced:

- Women's, men's, kids' & infants fashions
- Women's intimates, men's underwear, sleepwear & robes
- Women's, men's & kids' footwear
- Women' & men's accessories & hosiery and women's handbags

Prices as ticketed. Selection will vary by store.

SAVE AN EXTRA 40%

Already reduced bedding, duvets, pillows, towels, cushions, frames, candles, photo albums, table linens, area rugs & window coverings

Off our last ticketed prices.

*Total points = 5 x (dollar amount x 50). You will receive 250 points per dollar spent. This offer cannot be combined with any other bonus offer. If you refund the purchase(s) made in connection with this offer, points will be reduced by the bonus amount, using the same formula. Terms and conditions of the Hbc Rewards program found online at www.hbc.com/rewards apply to this offer. ** Quantities are limited. One bonus to a client, per event. While supplies last. Offer ends February 22, 2009.

Selection will vary by store. Savings are off our regular prices, unless otherwise specified. Everyday Bay Value, just-reduced, Power Buys, Manager's Specials, licensed departments, Salvati, Vera Wang and Hbc Foundation charity merchandise are excluded. When you see "POWER BUY" or "MANAGER'S SPECIAL" you will know we have found an exceptional deal to pass on to you. We may tell you the COMPARABLE VALUE on the price ticket and/or a sign, so you will see the price another retailer in Canada charges or would likely charge for the same or a comparable value item. Quantities of our Power Buys and Manager's Specials and items located in any "Style Outlet" in-store departments are limited and may vary from store to store – no rainchecks or substitutions. When we say "PRICE CUT", we mean the existing everyday price is being lowered temporarily. See in-store for details.

the **Bay**

WWW.THEBAY.COM